



## THE ACQUITTAL OF OJ SIMPSON

The OJ Simpson case: a chronology



JUNE 13 1994

June 13 The bodies of Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman are found outside her Brentwood townhouse. Simpson returns home after an overnight flight to Chicago, is questioned by police and then released.

June 16 Victims are buried in separate ceremonies. Simpson attends his ex-wife's funeral.

June 17 Simpson is arrested after a nationally televised slow-speed pursuit along Los Angeles freeways.



JUNE 17

June 20 Simpson pleads not guilty.

June 24 Judge Cudahy holds a grand jury probe into the murders, saying panel has been tainted by unprecedented media coverage. Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz and flamboyant lawyer F. Lee Bailey join defense team.

June 30 Simpson's preliminary hearing begins.

July 8 Judge Kathleen Kennedy-Powell orders Simpson to stand trial.

July 20 Simpson offers \$500,000 reward for information leading to the "real killer or killers".

July 22 Simpson pleads "absolutely, 100 per cent not guilty" in his arraignment. Case assigned to Judge Lance Ito. Noted trial lawyer Johnnie Cochran joins defense.

Sept. 9 Los Angeles district attorney's office says it will not seek death penalty against Simpson.

Sept. 26 Jury selection begins.

Nov. 3 Jury of 12 sworn in.

Dec. 8 alternate jurors sworn in.

1995

Jan. 11 Jury sequestered.

Jan. 24 Prosecutor Marcia Clark begins opening statement.

Jan. 25 Cochran begins defense opening statement.

Jan. 31 Testimony begins.

Feb. 1 Ron Shipp, a former LAPD officer and friend of Simpson, testifies that Simpson told him he dreamed of killing Nicole Simpson.

Feb. 3 Denise Brown takes the witness stand testifying about Simpson's alleged abuse of her sister, Nicole Simpson.

Feb. 12 Jury tour crime scene and Simpson's home.

Feb. 24 Arguments erupt over testimony of housekeeper Rosa Lopez, forcing her to take her testimony on videotape.

Mar. 9 Detective Mark Fuhrman takes the witness stand to testify about finding both bloody gloves.

Mar. 21 Simpson house guest Kato Kaelin testifies.

April 12 After removal from jury, Jeannette Harris says jurors discussed case and deputies promoted racial divisions.

MARCH 9

Richard Rubin, a former glove company executive, said he was "100 per cent certain" that the bloody gloves found at Nicole's home and Simpson's were the same Aris Leather-Lights style number 70263 with Brassier stitching that Simpson sported in a photograph at a football game in 1991.

But all this evidence was discredited by the bungled early stages of the police investigation and the destruction of Detective Fuhrman's character by the tapes proving his racist attitudes – something he had denied on oath in court.

If not OJ, who?

The defence claimed that a Colombian cocaine cartel killed Nicole and her friend by mistake. They had, the defence claimed, been sent to assassinate one of her friends.

No convincing evidence was offered that such a plot ever existed.



JUNE 15

April 21 To protest the removal of three disputes, half of the jurors appear at the courthouse wearing black.

June 15 Simpson tries on bloody gloves in court and pronounces them "too small".

July 6 Prosecution rests case.

July 10 Defence begins its case by calling Simpson's daughter, Arnelle, to the stand.

Aug. 29 Portions of taped interviews with Fuhrman played in court in which he is heard uttering racial slurs.

Sept. 6 Taking the witness stand with jury absent, Fuhrman asserts Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and refuses to answer questions.

Sept. 7 Simpson proclaims his innocence in a surprise courtroom statement; both sides rest; no instructions given.

Sept. 25 Prosecution's Clark begins closing statement.

Sept. 27 Prosecution concludes first phase of closing argument. Defence begins closing statement.

Sept. 28 Defence wraps up closing argument.

Sept. 29 Prosecution completes final phase of closing argument. Case is handed over to jury.

Oct. 2 Jury tells Judge Ito it has reached a verdict. Ito says he will announce it on Tuesday morning.

**The issues:** Questions remain at close of a trial in which American justice was put in the dock

# Whites' idol becomes black hero

JOHN CARLIN

Washington

If every person who stood trial in the US had OJ Simpson's money, America's jails would not be packed as they are. Mr Simpson spent more than \$8m (£5m) on his defence, securing the services of a "dream team" of lawyers and investigators who succeeded in sowing sufficient reasonable doubt in the minds of the jurors to win him a unanimous and surprisingly swift, not guilty verdict.

Full half of the population, three-quarters of them white, delivered a verdict of guilty, according to the polls. And this, in millions of cases, on the strength of having watched the proceedings on television as closely as the jurors themselves.

The evidence compiled by the prosecution, notably samples of Mr Simpson's blood and hairs found at the murder scene and a bloody glove found at his home, would have convicted many an ordinary criminal depending on his life on the services of a regular public defender. This is not least because Mr Simpson, who did not take the witness stand, failed to provide an alibi. It is still not known, after a trial that lasted nine months, what Mr Simpson was doing at the time of the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

The only conclusion the jury could have reached was that the police investigators in the case, motivated by racial hatred, had planted the evidence. Or, at any rate, that sufficient suspicion ex-

isted to believe they might have done so as to render impossible a verdict of guilt without reasonable doubt.

It was due to the dogged resourcefulness of the private investigators recruited by Mr Simpson's defence team that evidence came before the court revealing that Detective Mark Fuhrman had lied to the court when he testified that he had not used the word "nigger" in the previous 10 years. It was due to the skill of Johnnie Cochran, who led Mr Simpson's defence, that three-quarters of the way through the trial the man in the dock became, effectively, not Mr Simpson, but Mr Fuhrman, who on the night of the murders found a blood-spattered glove on Mr Simpson's property.

From the word go, Mr Cochran presented the trial as a race drama. "Do the right thing," he urged the jurors, nine of whom were black, during his concluding arguments last week. Explicitly, he told them that a victory for the prosecution would be a victory for the Los Angeles police department and, by extension, a defeat for the black civil rights movement.

Chris Darden, the black prosecution lawyer, pleaded with the jurors to see through Mr Cochran's "smoke" and concentrate on the facts of the case. American racism was not on trial here. Mr Simpson was viewed by many black Americans as black in appearance only. He was what is known dismissively in the ghettos as an "Oreo", the name of a popular biscuit that is chocolate on the outside and white inside. He lived in a big estate in a white neighbourhood; he drove a Bentley; he played golf with white big shots; he exchanged a black wife for a white one; he was an all-American sports hero who rescued whites' wishful notions that racism in America was dead; he lived in wealth and status among vast sectors of the American population have been destroyed.

But the second irony that still ha-

to be played out concerns Mr Fuhrman, who may end up in jail for perjury, while the man he tried to jail goes free. The one thing both men may have in common is that, whatever happens, their reputations among vast sectors of the American population have been destroyed.

But the biggest loser of all is likely to be America's criminal justice system. Right or wrong, Middle America's complacent belief in the constitutional notion of equality before the law – for rich and poor, famous or unknown – has been shot to pieces. The lesson of the OJ Simpson trial is that many millions of Americans will absorb that as with politics, so with law: money talks.

Mr Cochran's magic was to transform "OJ", the creation of establishment media hype, back into Orenthal James, his mother's son.

The jurors listened to Mr

Cochran, exposing at least two of the major ironies the trial yielded. First, before the trial,

**The verdict:** A key police witness's racial jibes undermined prosecution's forensic evidence

## How a trial turned on a bloody glove

TIM CORNWELL

Los Angeles

Oreothal James Simpson – star track star, TV commentator, comedy movie actor – is according to the law, an innocent man. Argument will rage for years about the weight of evidence against him. At the very least – innocent or guilty – he benefited from one of the most confused and bungled prosecutions of a high-profile case in American legal history.

According to the prosecution, he was a cold-blooded murderer, a man who brutally dispatched his ex-wife and a friend and, within the space of an hour, showered, changed and took a limousine to the airport.

According to the defence, he was the victim of a hurried plan by the LA police department to frame a celebrity – and, more importantly, a black celebrity.

The pivotal moment in the trial was the argument surrounding a bloody glove found near the murder scene and spots of blood found in OJ's room.

According to the prosecution, he was the bloody glove found between this blood and Simpson's blood was a conclusive 57 billion to one shot. The defence alleged that the blood and glove were planted by the LA police department. Some credence was given to this claim when it emerged that Detective Mark Fuhrman, the policeman who found the glove, was an inveterate racist.

Judge Lance Ito allowed the jury to hear extracts of a taped conversation with Fuhrman in which he used the word nigger. Although the judge did not expose the mainly black jury to the full tapes, experienced trial watchers – and leakers from the jury room – suggested that OJ could not be convicted from that moment.

How strong was the evidence against OJ?

The entire 12-month trial seemed to turn, in the end, on OJ's chauffeur-driven journey to the night of the crime from his estate, in Brentwood, near Beverly Hills, to LA international airport. On Monday, just before they announced that they had reached a verdict, the jury asked to hear once again the testimony of his chauffeur, Allan Park. Mr Park told the court that, at 10.40pm on the night of the murder, he buzzed the intercom at Simpson's gate without an answer. Fifteen minutes later, he buzzed again. Simpson answered, saying he had overslept, and was in the shower. In the intervening time, Park said he saw a man in dark clothing enter the house.

The testimony – never chal-

lenged in the trial – appeared to undermine the central assertion of the defence: that Simpson was at home practising his golf swing from 9.40pm to 11pm – while his wife was being virtually decapitated two miles away. At 11pm that night her mangled body was found alongside that of Ronald Goldman, a waiter at a local restaurant.

OJ, it seemed, had an opportunity to commit the crime. What of motive and proof?

The prosecution asserted that OJ was perpetually jealous, a man driven by the need to bring his ex-wife under his control. According to this version, he took Goldman for his wife's lover, although this was never proven. On 25 October 1993, just nine months before her death, Nicole Simpson dialled 911 for the police. "My husband – or ex-husband – has just broken into my house and he's ranting and raving outside in the front yard," Nicole told the dispatcher. In the background of the tape, played in court, OJ is heard raging about a National Enquirer story about the couple and slamming a door. "I don't give a – any more, –" he yells.

Much depended on the bloody glove found at the murder scene and a trail of blood drops nearby and in his own driveway. Blood on the rear gate of Nicole Simpson's condominium, retrieved several weeks after the crime, also matched his. Blood on a sock found in Simpson's bedroom matched Nicole's. An FBI hair and fibre expert matched fibres found on a knit cap near the bodies and on a leather glove found behind Mr Simpson's house in his Ford Bronco.

Richard Rubin, a former glove company executive, said he was "100 per cent certain" that the bloody gloves found at Nicole's home and Simpson's were the same Aris Leather-Lights style number 70263 with Brassier stitching that Simpson sported in a photograph at a football game in 1991.

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## A quick dash to judgment

TIM CORNWELL

Early last month Judge Lance Ito reported his jurors were "going out" with frustration and boredom, cut off from the world in their un-named hotel.

They returned from a group boat trip "barking at the seals". As far back as March there were reports of bitter infighting.

In the end their overwhelming desire seems to have been to get it over as fast as possible. "All we can tell is that we have 12 jurors that made up their minds a long time ago. They want to go home so badly that they simply don't care about the appearance of their own rush to judgement," said Peter Arenberg, a Los Angeles law professor.

Television news stations in

Los Angeles reported yesterday that the jurors were actually packing on Monday morning. Carl Douglas, the only member of the Simpson team to reach the court in time to hear they had reached a decision, said: "Surprised doesn't begin to describe my feelings. I am stunned at the speed."

The case involved 126 witnesses and filled 40,000 pages of trial transcript. But the jury reached a verdict on double-murder charges in about four hours. It led to some speculation that they had broken one of the cardinal rules of the jury room, which was not to discuss the case with each other before it was over.

The jury appeared to prove

virtually all the vaunted legal experts who agreed there would be weeks of deliberation, entirely wrong. It hinted that they were as sick of each other's company.

And it suggested that the high drama of the last week, in which the chief prosecutor, Marcia Clark, spoke of the victims calling for justice with their hair and blood, and the defence attorney, Johnnie Cochran, appealed to racial justice, washed over people.

The jury consisted of eight black women and one black man, two white women and one Hispanic man. Most commentators focused on race, and gender was largely overlooked. It was black women who domi-

nated the trial of a black male hero. The eldest on the panel was 71, a retired cleaner, married for 40 years. A heavy smoker, she said in jury selection she "never heard of OJ Simpson" and never read anything "except the horse sheet".

The two white women were a 22-year-old insurance claims adjuster and a 60-year-old divorcee. She was reported to be the only one to look at OJ Simpson as they returned with their ovens of a verdict.

One dismissed juror compare

died under sequestration to a chain gang. Members were woken at 5.30am, and were allowed to talk to each other only in the corridor or the cafeteria. They were banished alone to their rooms at night.

Instead the relatively unknown New York attorney Barry Schenk took the role of Mr Cochran's sidekick.

His repeated interruptions of the summing-up by the chief prosecutor, Marcia Clark, earned him the ire of Judge Lance Ito, who told him twice to sit down.

£25.1m) in lawsuits against the Los Angeles police department and other government bodies.

The nine-member defence team also included the legendary counsel F Lee Bailey. But in his much-hyped cross-examination of Mr Fuhrman, Mr Bailey failed to shake the detective's composure.

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## THE INDEPENDENT ON OJ SIMPSON

# The tendency to moralise, the appetite for trash

Believe it or not, as the word "unique" again becomes the most overworked word in the American language, we have been here before. It was 1935, year of the first and – for connoisseurs – the enduring Trial of the Century, when Bruno Hauptmann was convicted of the kidnap and murder of the baby son of the aviator Charles Lindbergh who, unlike Orenthal James Simpson, truly then was the most famous man alive.

When the similarly sequestered jury produced its verdict 60 years ago, 6,000 people, including Jack Benny, Ford Madox Ford, Damon Runyon and 400 less celebrated backs were on hand in the tiny New Jersey town of Flemington, while an AP reporter scooped the world from the courtroom with a radio microphone. Now we are live from LA, in the age of the global village. But the principle is unchanged: the mix

is extravaganza, where life has first imitated and then surpassed art, amid utter media abandon.

Stripped to its essentials, the OJ trial has been a poor-quality television soap opera run amok: in the words of Lance Morrow, the resident essayist of *Time* magazine this week, "a perfect demonstration of how the American tendency to moralise has gone into partnership with the American appetite for trash". Into this mix might also be stirred the country's love-hate relationship with the law, and the overarching power of television.

Inevitably, the interests of brevity and legal manner would have been better served by keeping the camera out of the courtroom. The reckoning is not all bad: Americans have learned much about the technicalities of their legal system, the days of numbingly tedious

testimony and abstruse points of procedure, discussed in countless attorney babbles, which are the stuff of any trial.

But in the Simpson saga television, supreme adjudicator of fame and fortune in the contemporary US, has turned justice into a circus. Defence and prosecution lawyers alike have danced to its tune, pitching their case as much to the general public as to the 12 jurors whose views were ultimately the only ones that mattered.

As in other cases so, the State of California vs OJ Simpson is pretty routine, apart from the identity of the defendant. Without television, it would have been over in two months, not nine. Television has exposed the bloated business of celebrity law in its full self-important silliness – not just the strutting hot-shot defence attorneys but the parasites who flourish in a system where the letter of the law so

easily displaces common sense: the witness coaches, the highly-paid consultants who have turned jury selection into a small industry, and sundry other "experts" of every hue. Alas, the market is there.

Three cable networks, CNN, Court TV and the E! (Entertainment) channel, ran gavel-to-gavel coverage, with CNN reporting a fivefold jump in ratings from the Before-OJ era when news consisted of mere trivialities like Bosnia, Haiti and the massacres in Rwanda. Once it began, the Trial was always there – if not live, then via replays of key testimony and the incessant chatter of rent-a-mouth lawyers, all blurring into a seamless and timeless separate universe.

And it must be said, OJ outshone the soaps. The case had everything: race, celebrities, the LA high life, and brutal murder. It could be scored from the armchair, like a football game. Occasionally it would yield pride of place to great events in the world beyond – the Republican sweep of Congress, the Oklahoma City bombing and the continuing agony of Bosnia. But each would subside, and the Simpson case took over the American consciousness again, hypnotic and (as someone remarked of the French) bottomless in its superficiality.

With the possible exception of the Gulf War, America has not had a topic of conversation to match it since the Kennedy assassination. Since January,

OJ has accounted for more minutes of coverage on ABC, CBS and NBC prime-time news than Bosnia and Oklahoma combined, and 13 times as much as the debate on Medicare – whose outcome truly will affect the lives of every American. It has been meat and drink for hundreds – make that thousands – of talk shows. Larry King, CNN's star chat-show host, has lived off it, and so have his imitators. Throughout, Greasham's law has operated to perfection. The bad has consistently driven out the good, and just when it seemed it couldn't get any tackier, it did.

During that earlier festival of bad taste, the Lindbergh trial, one reporter prised the tiny coffin open to photograph the decayed remains of the 20-month-old baby. Six decades later, the *Globe* tabloid has provided an equally tawdry footnote to the Simpson case by

publishing crime scene photos of the hacked and bloody corpses of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. "An important news event," said the paper, which refused to specify how much it had paid, and to whom, for its scoop.

Which leads to the other villain of the piece: money. The trial and its spin-offs like books, souvenirs and the higher television advertising rates it generated, are reckoned to equal the GDP of a middle-sized Central American nation. Nor is it over: jurors will sell their memoirs for small fortunes (though at least they've earned them), while the bidding for "exclusives" will reach the stratosphere: "You name it, we'll top it," as one television producer put it this week. Hence the hype, essential to keep up the ratings which pay for it all. Hence the psychobabble about the "defining event of the 1990s", and a "Shakespearean drama" featuring "the Othello of the 20th century".

In fact the OJ case, unlike the Lindbergh affair which generates controversy to this day, may be quickly forgotten. The trial has been less tragedy than farce, a spectacle defining nothing except the blindingly obvious, that race is an enduring problem in the US, and that the human species likes to be entertained.

Looking back on 15 lunatic months, the character who best conveys their flavour is not Johnnie Cochran, Judge Lance Ito, Marcia Clark or the genuinely tragic figure of Fred Goldman, the victim's father, nor even the Moor of Rockingham Avenue himself – but a vapid failed actor and Simpson house guest called Brian "Kato" Kaelin. A few days in the witness box last spring briefly made him the most famous man in America. Kato who?

## OJ blinks into the daylight of an uncertain future

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington  
DAVID USBORNE  
New York

The freshly acquitted OJ Simpson returned one last time to Los Angeles County Jail, to collect his personal items, undergo a quick formal check of his record – and walk into a future that is completely uncertain.

Technically the former football star is free, but he is unlikely to quickly shake off the case which for more than 15 months has transfixed and polarised the United States. His personal life surely will remain in almost unbearable turmoil. Civil lawsuits for "wrongful death" are outstanding from the families of his former-wife, Nicole Simpson and of Ronald Goldman, while he must confront the fraught matter of custody of Sidney, 10, and Justin, 7, his two children by Nicole. They are presently being cared for by Nicole's family, which is convinced their mother was murdered by their father.

Whether the suits go forward remains to be seen. But if they do, the problems for Simpson will be considerable. A civil case requires only that "a preponderance of the evidence" proves his involvement in the murders, instead of the stricter "beyond a reasonable doubt" that state prosecutors Marcia Clark and Chris Darden failed to demonstrate in the trial which ended yesterday.

Defending civil suits, and meeting the heavy damages which might result, would be expensive, even for a man once worth \$10m and now stands to make millions more by telling his side of the story...

Professionally, OJ Simpson's days as a football commentator and commercial pitchman for

Hertz rental cars – or any other product – are surely done. Whatever the court verdict, polls show 65 per cent of the country, and an even higher percentage of whites, believe he is a murderer.

At least though he is not destined for the poor house. Although the cost of his all-star defence team is reckoned to have virtually consumed his previous fortune, other income sources, already studied by advisers, is a pay-per-view TV show in which



Running back: the perfect US hero. Photograph: Alsport

Simpson expounds his innocence. Another book may be in the works.

From a San Francisco slum to the pinnacle of sporting success, OJ Simpson's journey made him the perfect American hero. So dazzling were his accomplishments and so flawless his public image, little notice was taken of the traumas that marred his private life. Not until 12 June 1994, that is...

Born on 9 July 1947 in the working-class Portero Hill section of San Francisco, Orenthal James Simpson had a difficult childhood. His parents split

when he was tiny and by his teens he was running with a local gang called the "Persian Warriors". Because of a calcium deficiency, he was forced to wear leg braces. His nickname then was not the "Juice", but "Pencil Piss".

At the University of South California, Mr Simpson became the first college football player to make it to the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. At 15 stone and six in, he was snapped up by the Buffalo Bills where, as a running back, he won the affection of all of America with his astonishing power and ability to dodge tackles. For black Americans especially he became a new kind of sporting role model.

And Mr Simpson, with his good looks, ready smile and effusive sense of humour, seemed impossibly nice. He was the one who would visit kids in hospital or step out to shake hands in the crowd.

After his retirement, he acted in *Officer Blue*, fighting with the *Towering Inferno* in 1974 and including three *Naked Gun* comedies. After his retirement from the field in 1984, he became an NBC sportscaster.

His personal life was less smooth, however. In 1979 he was divorced from Marquette, who complained that she had been "shoved out of the way" by her husband's new-found fame. Shortly before the divorce was completed, tragedy struck the couple, when their 23-month-old daughter, Aaren, died after drowning in a swimming pool.

Mr Simpson began dating Nicole Simpson in 1977, when she was still a schoolgirl, and lavished her with a luxurious lifestyle. They married in 1985 and had two children, Sydney and Justin.

## Silence, a sharp intake of breath and disbelief

"YEEES!" "It's a joke" simultaneously burst out.

For 20 minutes, 16 men and two women had crouched over a tiny black-and-white television at the French Quarter Diner on Santa Monica Boulevard in Los Angeles. Piped music was cut, coffee got cold and tills were abandoned as everyone waited for the OJ Simpson verdict.

"Sesh" greeted every footstep as Judge Lance Ito's face came up on screen. "Oh my God, I'm so confused," Beth Dard, 34, said. "I know what I think, but I don't know what they'll say."

"Shut it," hissed her neighbour.

"Say something, say something," pleaded Jack Adrian as the jury forewoman checked the verdict. Suddenly the silence was broken as a vacuum cleaner started up next door. The diners turned as one to bellow "Shuddup!"

Then the verdict was announced and everyone drew sharp breaths, disbelief on many faces. "It's sick. Money talks, doesn't it?" Dennis Charvez, 36, said. "When you think of the American money that has been spent on this trial when LA has such problems with homelessness and disease..."

"But the jury were right," said Freddie Salazar. "There's been so much hype, but they saw through it."

Roy Kinney, a server at the

Glenda Cooper joins the throngs who gathered by the TV in America

diner, disagreed. "The jury think he is guilty but just can't find enough proof. That's why they wouldn't meet his eyes on Monday. And calling up Allan Park's testimony – that was meant to tell him they knew."

Mr Salazar turned away from the set and what had been predicted as "the most viewed event in daytime television history". He shrugged: "It doesn't really affect my life, though, and I think it's been taken way too seriously. Yes, waiting for the verdict has been exciting, but at the end of the day it's just the trial of one man."

"No, it's more than that," Mr Kinney said. "The lawyers turned it into a matter of race. They took the focus off whether he was guilty or innocent and turned it into whether you felt the police were racist or not."

Jeremiah Walker, a taxi driver, agreed. "This trial has all been a load of crap, hasn't it? It's been twisted from the beginning. I just hope [the police] are watching."

Then the piped music came back on, and Mr Kinney asked: "So who did kill Nicole and Ron, then?"

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## 4 news

# Police urged to get tough on beggars

**HEATHER MILLS**  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Police and voluntary workers are to be urged to get tough with vagrants, drunks and beggars, in an attempt to clean up the streets.

The Government is reviewing vagrancy and other laws to see if police have sufficient powers to deal with aggressive beggars. At the same time it is planning to set targets for hostels and out-reach workers to get long-term and needy homeless into accommodation and treatment centres.

The proposals come just a month after Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, ran into controversy when he said there should be more effort to clear the streets of aggressive car windscreen cleaners, graffiti artists, beggars, drunks and drug addicts.

They were spelled out in the 70-page consultation document yesterday, which said: "Those

who intimidate others or who attempt fraudulently to procure charitable contributions must expect to be prosecuted. Begging is distressing for members of the public and visitors alike."

The moves form part of a planned extension to the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative — a widely acclaimed homelessness programme that has succeeded in reducing the numbers sleeping on London's street from more than 1,000 six years ago to about 270 now.

But while continued funding for the programme was yesterday welcomed by welfare groups and charities, there were concerns about the proposal to "get tough" with those who are determined to remain on the streets.

The Government paper reveals that as many as half of them are heavy drinkers, around one-third mentally ill and one in six on drugs.

Yesterday Sarah Moseley, a spokeswoman for Centrepoint,

the charity for homeless young people, said: "The success of the scheme has depended upon close co-operation between police, the voluntary agencies and the homeless themselves. To suddenly start forcing people off the streets and into accommodation will only be counter-productive."

However, the paper makes it clear that ministers do not believe that resorting to the criminal law offers a long term solution to the problem and that it would only form one part of a "multi-agency campaign" to solve the homeless problem.

It invites views on more effective outreach and resettlement work and the provision of "wet" shelters — hostels where alcohol can be drunk, an incentive to get those with drink problems off the streets.

The paper also requests information and views from local authorities and others outside central London to see if its success can be extended.



Food for thought: Begging such as this in Leicester Square, central London, may be outlawed by new legislation

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

**MPs' conduct:** Fresh revelations from Parliamentary insiders

## Party whips 'manipulated by lobbyists'

**CHRIS BLACKHURST**  
Westminster Correspondent

MPs and lobbyists yesterday concurred with a description of tactics used by lobbyists to influence the Commons committees that consider legislation, revealed in the *Independent*.

Stephen Byers MP, a Labour whip, said the system was vulnerable because in deciding who to put on standing committees which amend proposed legislation, whips looked at who had spoken on a Bill's second reading. An MP's chances of being selected for the committee, "increase by a factor of 10", said Mr Byers, if he or she had shown an interest in the Bill by speaking on the floor of the House...

At a private conference on Monday, Michael Burrell, managing director of Westminster Strategy, Britain's largest lobbying consultancy, guided members of his profession and executives from major companies and organisations through tactics which can be used.

These included, Mr Burrell said, ensuring friendly MPs disguise their support of a client's position during the second reading of a Bill in the Commons. Speaking at that stage brings MPs to the attention of the whips, who select them for the committee. Once selected, they were more able to support the client's interests. Mr Burrell acknowledged this was a "Machiavellian" practice.

Insiders did not doubt this occurred. Typically, said a senior lobbyist who is also a Tory activist, the whips will be faced with six committee seats to fill from their party. They will choose four who are straight up

and down behind the party line and will do what they are told, one whose mind is in another direction and another in the opposite direction."

The whips are not averse to Machiavellian behaviour themselves. On the Government side, said the Tory lobbyist, they "will want people on the committee to raise peripheral subjects to mask the real issues, so they will make sure they choose one or two people guaranteed to put up a smoke screen."

Mr Byers said that from his own experience he knew lobbyists concentrated on standing committees — even before their composition had been decided. When he spoke against the recent Gas Bill — not for any particular lobbying interest but because he had a research station in his constituency which was threatened and he feared low users might end up paying higher tariffs — he was surprised to find how he was approached by political lobbyists and also by the independent gas suppliers themselves on the basis that he would be selected for the standing committee.

A lobbyist from another firm said getting a supporter on to a standing committee was easier than many people might imagine because MPs were not always keen to serve on them and places can go begging.

On a Bill affecting its clients, his firm would encourage its MP contacts to speak. He did not draw the line at getting them to say one thing and then say another once in the committee room — the prize of a voice on the committee, he said, easily justified such a ruse.

Letters, page 18

## Talking shelves are cool for cats

**JONATHAN FOSTER**

Supermarket shelves will this month begin speaking to shoppers through new marketing technology expected to send cat food sales through the roof, and those of a delicate disposition barking mad.

Any hapless trolley-pusher straying close to a Spiller's product will hear voices from stacks of inanimate cans. Psychiatrists may later doubt the accounts, but victims from Peterhead to Newquay will swear they distinctly heard the shelf say: "Indulge your loved one with a can of Jaws. Spiller's Purfect, but remember, it's just for cats."

The marketing campaign, to be introduced at 60 Somerfield supermarkets, will not provide jobs for unemployed actors. Instead, pioneering Belgian technology devised a small box equipped with customer radar which begins broadcasting the message from behind an illustration of a replete pet.

Spiller's decided it was time for cat food tins to break their silence after an outbreak of anthropomorphic thinking seized its marketing department.

The rationale for the new range is simple: human eating habits are changing, explained Richard Hodgson, senior brand manager. People eat fewer traditional "heavy" meals, more

light, spicy meals. Consumption of red meats is decreasing as late 20th century man turns to white meats and fish. Therefore, cat food should reflect those changes in eating habits.

The logic is compelling: next, pine kernel and aubergine roast for the dog, and pasta with fresh basil for the goldfish.

The Purrfect range is being promoted through television advertisements in which a man mistakes the cat's dinner for his own. Recipes include salmon in prawn jelly or chicken in a savoury sauce, available at 49p for a 400g can from the talking supermarket.

Belgian shoppers have already proved obedient to "vox box" promotions. Yoghurt and hair care shelves regularly address monologues to customers. Over on toilet rolls, the Andrex puppy says in French and Flemish: "Why don't you take me home this weekend?"

Why the weekend is the time when Belgians are more inclined to use toilet paper remains a mystery, but Belgian bottoms were subsequently treated to 300 per cent more Andrex tissue.

British manufacturers can hardly wait to participate in the retailing bonanza. Jon Cooper, of Insure Marketing, said he had been inundated with inquiries.

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مكتبة العمل

## IN BRIEF

**Gloucester killings:** Trial of builder's widow begins nine months after he committed suicide in his prison cell

## Media frenzy as Rosemary West faces murder jury

WILL BENNETT

The trial of Rosemary West on 10 murder charges began in Winchester yesterday amid huge media interest but with the people of the ancient Hampshire city taking all the fuss in their stride.

The prosecution will open its case against Mrs West, 41, until at least Friday and possibly

next week because of legal submissions being made to Mr Justice Mantell, the trial judge.

Dozens of photographers and television camera crews were outside Winchester Crown Court yesterday as Mrs West arrived in a police van escorted by three motorcycle outriders after a two-minute journey from the city's prison. She is being held in the prison in a special

unit made from seven cells in the segregation wing. She will be allowed to have visits from her family and lawyers during the trial.

A jury of eight men and four women was sworn in in the bland, modern surroundings of court three, where the trial, which is expected to last up to eight weeks, is taking place.

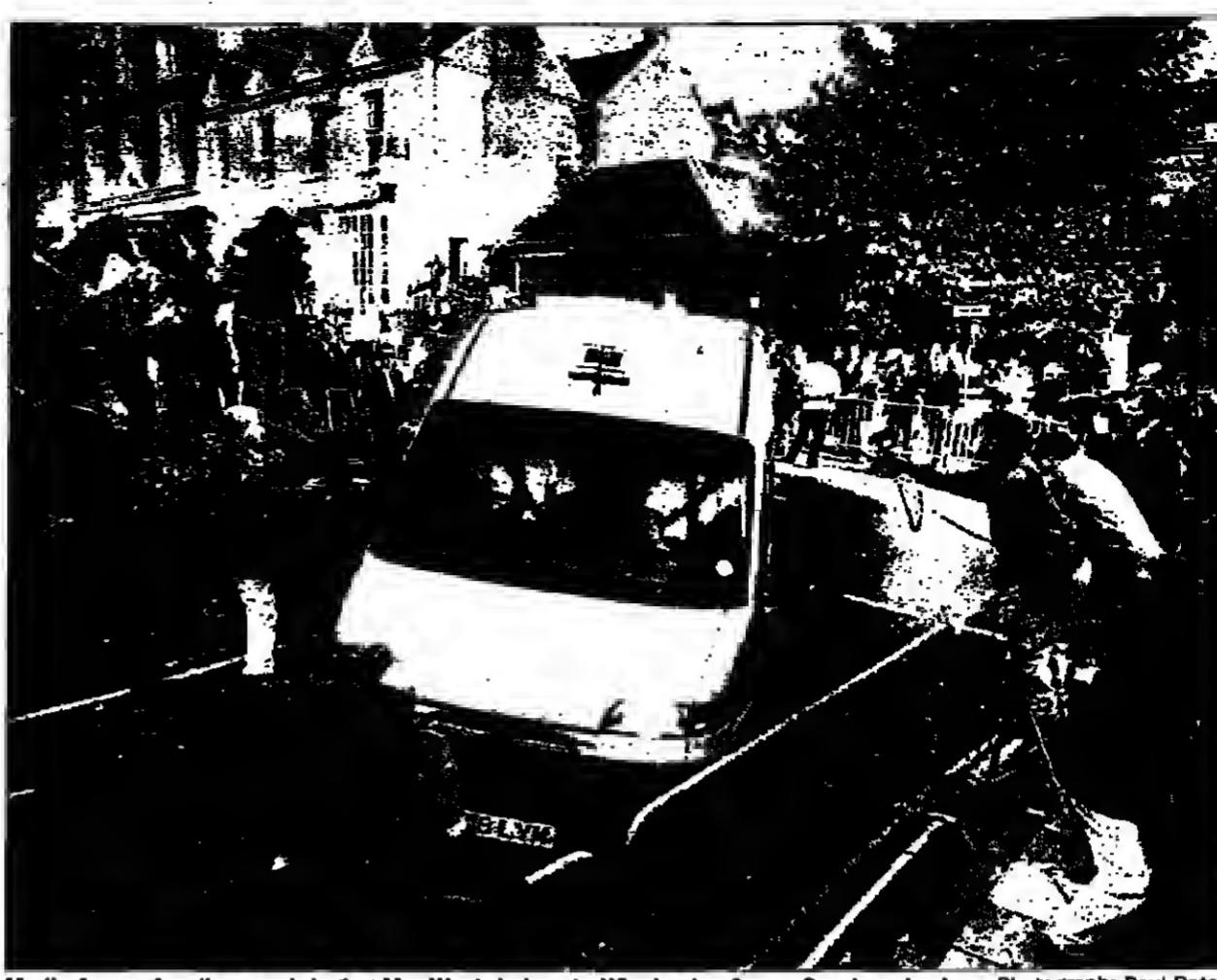
Mrs West, of Gloucester, stood with her hands clasped in front of her as the jury was told that she was pleading not guilty to 10 charges of murder, alleged to have been committed between 1971 and 1987.

The first charge read out by Angela Merdale, the court clerk, was that she had murdered Charmaine West, eight, the daughter of her husband's first wife, Reas, and the last alleged that she had murdered her own eldest daughter Heather West, 16, who was last seen alive in 1987.

Standing between two female prison warders, Mrs West, a mother of seven, did not speak a word. She looked straight ahead and glanced occasionally at the members of the jury.

Mrs West has faced the charges alone since her husband, Frederick West, a builder, hanged himself in his prison cell in Birmingham last New Year's Day.

Mr Justice Mantell told the jury yesterday: "This is a case which has attracted a certain



Media focus: A police van bringing Mrs West, below, to Winchester Crown Court yesterday. Photograph: Paul Bates

amount of publicity, it is going to attract more." He said that they must clear their minds of all prejudice.

The jury was then sent away from the court until at least Friday while the judge hears legal submissions from barristers. The case for the prosecution is being led by Brian Leveson QC, while Mrs West is being defended by Richard Ferguson QC.

However, the case was adjourned yesterday afternoon until tomorrow. One of the reasons for this is that Mr Leveson, a devout Jew, wishes to observe Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, today.

The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday that Mr Justice Mantell would hear other matters today and denied that the court would be losing a day's business.



### Murder case told of 'chilling abuse'

A mother murdered her daughter, poisoned another and seriously injured a third in a chilling catalogue of child abuse". Nottingham Crown Court was told yesterday. Celia Beckett, 34, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, is accused of killing four-year-old daughter Tracy in 1986; causing fatal brain damage to another daughter, Clare, in 1984, when she was five months old; and poisoning a third daughter, Debbie, and causing her cruelty. The jury heard the case represented a catalogue of errors by social services and police.

Beckett denies all the charges and says the children helped themselves to her anti-depressant drugs. The case continues.

### Hickson to appeal

Paul Hickson, 48, the Olympic swimming coach jailed for 17 years last week for sex attacks on young girl swimmers, is to appeal against the sentence and may challenge his conviction.

### 'Archers' star dies

Actress Mollie Harris, for 25 years the voice of Martha Woodford in *The Archers* radio soap opera, died aged 82. She had been suffering from cancer, a BBC spokesman said.

### Obituary, page 16

### Roller-blade alert

The Westminster coroner called for stricter controls on roller-bladers after the death of a cyclist. A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Mark Welch, 26, of Shepherd's Bush, west London, who collided with a skater in Hyde Park.

### Chess solution

Councillors in the Western Isles conceded defeat in the battle for the world's most expensive chess set and agreed to the return the 800-year-old Lewis Chessmen, valued at £1m each, to the British Museum and the National Museum of Scotland.

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## Sex abuse charge dropped after 'victim' is found hanged

ALAN MURDOCH

Dublin

The alleged victim of child abuse involving a Catholic cleric has killed himself, an Irish court was told yesterday.

A charge of sex abuse against Joseph Scally, 60, based at the headquarters of the De la Salle order at Castletown in Port Laoise, in the Irish Republic, was dropped at Newmarketon-Sea magistrates' court in Co Down,

Northern Ireland after the court heard the alleged victim had hanged himself 10 days ago.

Mr Scally, who worked at a children's home in the Ards Peninsula in Co Down, faced two new charges. He was accused of buggery of two boys under 16 between January 1971 and May 1979.

He appeared in court earlier this year charged with five similar offences. The charge dropped yesterday concerned a man now aged 30 who committed suicide. The new charges came as the Irish Director of Public Prosecutions defended his office against claims that prosecution rates in sex abuse cases were unjustifiably low.

In a rare public statement yesterday, Eamonn Barnes, the Irish Republic's Director of Public Prosecutions, rejected politicians' claims of an extraordinarily low rate of prosecution of such offences, and a reluctance to bring charges in cases involving children under

the age of seven. Mr Barnes complained of an "absurd duplication" of legal functions between his agency - in which he and 10 legal assistants process 8,000 legal cases annually - and the State Solicitors who take over cases at the prosecution stage in Ireland.

He said the division meant "I have, in short, little or no control over the implementation of my decisions", and argued that a single legal agency should

oversee cases from start to finish, reducing delays and costs.

He added that while a social worker might believe sex abuse had occurred, other key considerations included whether a child was old enough to give evidence, and the time-lapse between an alleged offence and a case being brought.

Denying slowness in initiating prosecutions, he told Irish radio: "We are in the business of implementing the criminal law. That is particularly true in the horrible crime of sex abuse. Anyone with a grain of humanity in them would give a little bit extra effort in the prosecution of those crimes."

Mr Barnes warned: "You must always remember justice is even-handed. You must always have regard for the interests of the victim, and the interests of the victim are critically important, but also of the suspect."

Mortgage repayment benefit will still be available after October 1st to those changing the type of mortgage held with the same lender. All offers subject to security and status. Full details of the free transfer offer are available on request. It does not apply to properties in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate fee (policy fees). For written details of Midland's mortgages call 0800 494 999. AT743 Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and advises only on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT

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Vernon Coleman

### For a cricket lover:

The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K Jerome's classic "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinniswood in Punch. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." Coleman is a very funny writer," said This England. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." Seminal reading includes Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the peregrinations of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said The Cricketer magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

### For a golf lover:

Anyone who likes golf will love The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's tight and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Hugely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chronicle. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of aftershave.

### Or for anyone who loves a good read:

Isn't it wonderful when you discover a series of books by an author you haven't come across before? Well, Vernon Coleman's Bilbury books are like that - and have already been enjoyed by countless thousands of readers. Comfortable, loving pets in front of a crackling log fire. Hot, crusty bread fresh from the oven. Homemade soup bubbling on the stove. Vegetables dewy fresh from the garden. A pint at the local pub. Cricket on the village green with tea and cakes at four o'clock. Rambling roses clambering over picture postcard cottages. That's Bilbury. Anyone who loves an old fashioned good read (with characters, plots and good writing) will thank you for introducing them to the Bilbury books when you buy them Bilbury Pie.

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If you lost your job, how would you pay your mortgage?

You may be unaware of the changes to the rules governing income support. But you ought to know about them, because they may affect you. After October 1st, if you have a mortgage you will receive no assistance with your interest payments in the first two months of illness or unemployment, followed by reduced rates of assistance for the next four months. And if you're taking out a new mortgage or changing an existing mortgage, you'll receive no help for the first nine months. If you take out a mortgage with Midland, however, we'll offer you Mortgage Repayment Protection. This will pay your mortgage interest for twelve months during illness, after an accident or if you lose your job. And if you switch your mortgage to Midland you'll be happy to hear that on top of a free transfer and special mortgage rate discounts, we're offering the first six months' protection free. For more information on transferring your mortgage to Midland, return the coupon, visit your local branch or call us free on 0800 494 999.

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Fans

## Another world's fastest chip H-P claims its PA-8000 will outperform others

It's a race that seems to start on a monthly basis, but Hewlett-Packard Co. announced a chip design Monday that it believes gives the title of the world's fastest microprocessor to the PA-8000, which is one of H-P's line of workstations.

### Shortages hit 486 suppliers

A worldwide shortage of 486 chips is starting to make life difficult for system vendors as Intel shifts semiconductor production in favor of Pentium chips.

Advanced Micro Devices

## HP lifts curtain on 64-bit chip, keeps mum on Intel project

Determined not to lose mind share in the processor game, Hewlett-Packard Co. last week provided a glimpse of its 64-bit PA-RISC 2000 architecture, which is still a year from delivery.

At the same time, officials at HP and Intel Corp. all but denied a wire service news report that said the results of the two companies' collaborative processor development would be shown in 1997.

That report was based on go-

Barrett, who:

**IN TUNE WITH**

In showing that the 64-bit UltraSPARC is the way to bet, HP is betting that 64-bit

By the end of Larry Irman, HP

don't see the value

### IBM, Motorola To Announce 64-bit PowerPC

64-bit PowerPC  
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## 1997 date set for delivery of HP/Intel P7

Intel Corp. acknowledged last week that the P7 will be the first chip to come out of the alliance.

Volume production is

second half.

## INTEL-HEWLETT-PACKARD ALLIANCE SEEN RALLYING A 64-BIT MICROPROCESSOR STANDARDS EFFORT

There are scant details of how Hewlett-Packard Co.

plans to introduce technology developed under its

## Sun announces untested 64-bit chip

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# Fans cry foul as United cash in

TOM STEVENSON  
and JOHN MCKIE

Manchester United fans, already upset by the transfers over the summer of some of their star players, were dealt another blow yesterday when the club unveiled soaring revenue from its widely criticised merchandising operation.

United recorded sales of £23.5m from kit, videos and other gear emblazoned with their colours in the year to July, up from £14.2m in 1994. Five years ago the club sold just £2m from merchandising. The increased revenue from these sales helped the publicly quoted company that owns the club to double its profits from £10.8m last year to £20m.

Football clubs have come under fire for the money they make selling team strips, which change every couple of years. Critics say clubs prey on fashion-conscious children and their hapless parents. Manchester United have three different designs to tempt youngsters, covering home and away matches.

This summer saw a 13 per cent increase in ticket prices and the sale of three of the club's stars, Mark Hughes, Paul Ince and Andrei Kanchelski.

Andy Walsh, secretary of the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association, said yesterday: "It's a scandal. They promised us there was going to be a freeze on prices for two years. They're pricing the ordinary fan out of the market. Last year, to follow them home and away, cost £3,000. To take my son to two home games and an away game in Sheffield cost more than £100."

The association's vice-chairman, Johnny Flacks, added: "In the past five years, there's been a 300 per cent increase in prices. Manchester United used to pride themselves on being one of the cheapest clubs in the country but now they're one of the most expensive outside London."

The growth in profits came despite a traumatic 1994-95 season for the club in which it failed to win a major competition, finishing as runner-up in both the Premiership and FA Cup.

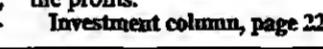
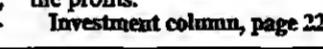
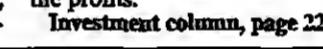
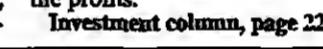
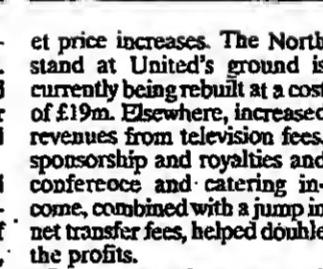
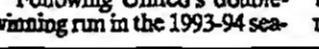
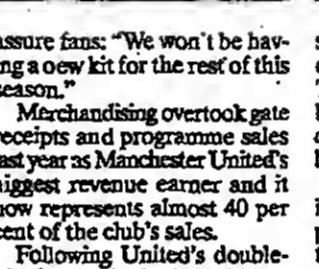
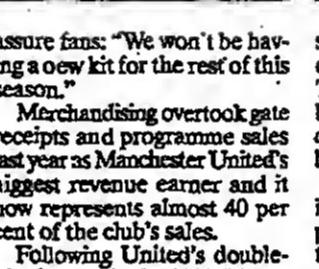
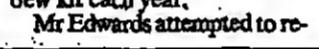
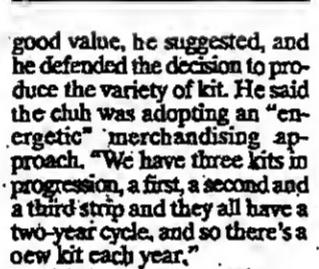
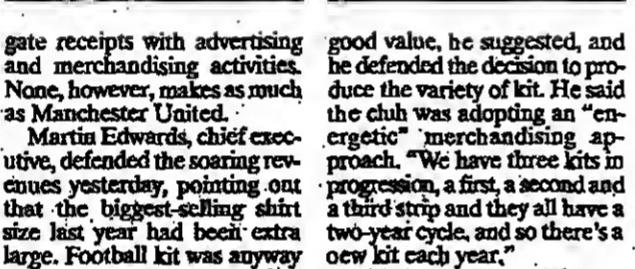
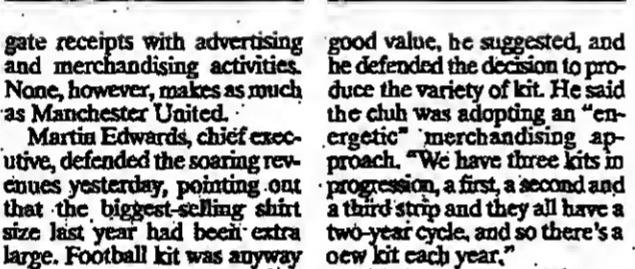
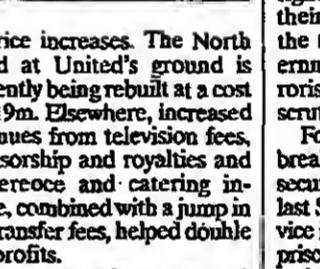
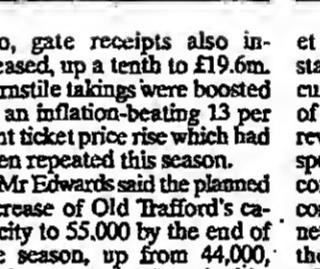
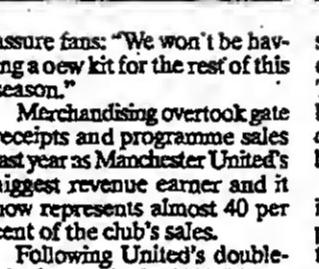
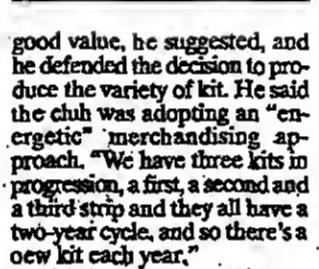
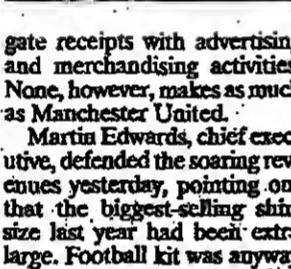
All clubs now supplement



Strip search: Young fans stock up with new season merchandising and, below, some of the recent kit



Photograph: Howard Berlow



## Army suffering from shortage of front-line troops

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

The Army is facing a serious shortage of front-line soldiers in spite of the multi-million pound recruiting campaign which began a year ago, and despite reductions in its overall size and the "Front Line First" review intended to shift more soldiers to combat units.

The infantry, which should have 24,000 soldiers, is 1,200-5 per cent - under strength and the 2,000-strong Parachute Regiment more than 10 per cent.

The Royal Armoured Corps, who drive tanks, and the Royal Artillery, who fire big guns,

the other principal "teeth arms", are also short of soldiers in the ranks. But the Engineers, Signals, Logistics Corps and other technical arms are over-recruited. And the next three courses for officer cadets, destined for command appointments in all parts of the Army, at Sandhurst are all full.

Senior officers believe the shortage of recruits in the key fighting arms is due to the higher entry qualifications now required, and the fact that people with the necessary abilities favour branches of the Army that will give them technical qualifications they can use when

they leave the service. In addition to social changes, they also blame parents who pressure their sons and daughters out to join units that are perceived to be more dangerous.

Next year, the Army is due to reduce to 117,000 troops and its actual strength is expected to be 1,000 short overall. It could force soldiers who signed up for the support arms to serve in the infantry, tanks or artillery, but is most reluctant to do so.

The shortage is particularly serious because 32 per cent of the Army is currently on active service - in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, or Cyprus - training for them, or resting afterwards.

The Army is having to meet this unprecedented operational commitment on a "peacetime" basis - without any of the reservists who would reinforce it in "war". So it has had to bolster units in Bosnia with soldiers from other regiments.

A senior Army officer said changes in education and social organisation were partly responsible for the imbalance.

He added: "We don't need the 'grunt' infantryman any more. We're looking at the person who is happy in the field, with all the night vision equipment, laser rangefinders, and the rest."

## IRA prisoners fight 'unlawful' visit rules

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, was yesterday accused at the High Court of unlawfully denying IRA prisoners the right to proper contact with their families and lawyers - the third time in a week government treatment of IRA terrorists has come under court scrutiny, writes Heather Mills.

Following the attempted IRA breakout from Whitemoor top security jail in Cambridgeshire last September, the Prison Service introduced "closed visits" - prisoners divided from visitors by a glass screen - for all inmates

seen as an "exceptional risk".

Yesterday two IRA prisoners, Michael O'Brien, serving 18 years for attempted murder, and Liam O'Dubhain, jailed for 30 years for conspiracy to cause explosions, claimed the moves breached their rights to unfettered access to a lawyer. Edward Fitzgerald QC, for the two men, further argued that the right to some form of physical contact with close family was the "irreducible minimum" any civilised society should provide.

The Government is contesting the judicial review.

You close your laptop. You push back your seat and adjust your footrest. A taste of Brie. A sip of Bordeaux.

You turn the sound up a notch and hope you won't be arriving too soon.

## LABOUR IN BRIGHTON

# Blair offers vision of a new young Britain

**'We are the patriotic party of the people'**

STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Parliamentary Correspondent

Tony Blair yesterday portrayed Labour as the "patriotic party", wanting to build a united Britain, where politics is not fought by appealing to one section of the nation at the expense of another.

In a speech of just over an hour, very well received by the Brighton conference, the Labour leader said he would devote to creating the country of the post-war generation's dreams.

He wanted to build a "new and young country" that lay aside the old prejudices. "One Britain ... where your child in distress is my child, your parent ill and in pain is my parent, your friend unemployed and helpless is my friend, your neighbour my neighbour. That is the true patriotism of a nation."

Declaring Labour to be the patriotic party because it was the party of the people, Mr Blair said he knew what many people would be thinking as the Tories waved their Union Flags next week in Blackpool: "It is no good waving the flag when you have spent 16 years tearing apart the fabric of our nation."

He never mentioned John Major by name and questioned the survival of the NHS and free state education if the Tories were returned for a fifth term.

The Liberal Democrats did not feature at all, but he said Labour would co-operate with others on constitutional change. There would be legislation in the first year for a Scottish parliament and a Welsh assembly. London should have a directly-elected authority and the right of hereditary peers to sit in the House of Lords would be ended as the first step to reform of the second chamber.

Telling unions to "leave the battles of the past", Mr Blair said laws on ballots, peaceful picketing and the conduct of disputes would stay. But he reaffirmed Labour's commitment to sign the European Social Chapter on workers' rights and drew loud applause for his opposition to rail privatisation.

"To anyone thinking of grabbing our railways built up over the years, so they can make a quick profit as our network is broken up and sold off, I say this: There will be a publicly-owned, and publicly accountable railway system under a Labour government."

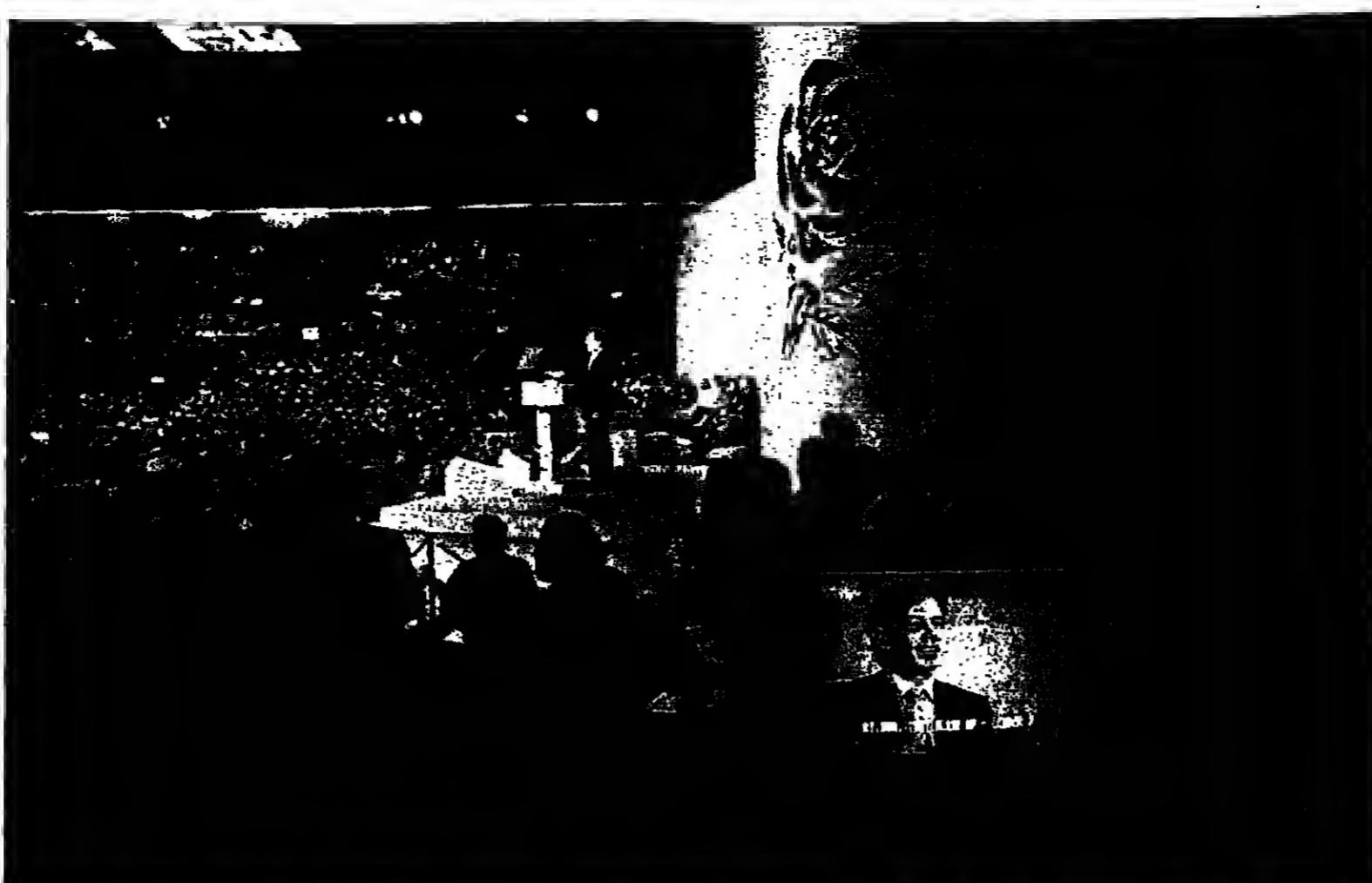
Acknowledging that the transition to "new Labour" had been painful for some, Mr Blair said that socialism to him was never about nationalisation or the power of the state. It was a moral purpose in life.

"It is how I try to live my life. The simple truths. I am worth no more than anyone else. I am my brother's keeper. I will not walk by on the other side." People were not set in isolation from each other but members of the same family, the same community.

"This is my socialism. And the irony of our long years in opposition is that those values are shared by the vast majority of the British people."

Mr Blair said he did not enter politics to change the Labour Party but to change his country. "And I honestly believe that if we hadn't changed, if we had not returned our party to its values freed from the weight of outdated ideology, we could not change the country."

"For I do not want a one-term Labour government that dazzles for a moment then ends in disillusion. I want a Labour government that governs for a generation and changes Britain for good."



Party platform: Tony Blair, the Labour leader, addresses the conference in Brighton yesterday

Photograph: John Voss

Setting the background to his call for a "young Britain", Mr Blair said his generation had been born into the welfare state and the market economy of bank accounts, supermarkets, jeans and cars. They had money in their pockets, had travelled abroad and had been through the sexual revolution of the 1960s.

"This generation, my generation, enjoys a thousand material advantages over any previous generation; and yet we suffer a depth of insecurity and spiritual doubt they never

knew." The family was weakened, society divided. "We see elderly people in fear of crime, children abused."

In a key section, he stressed the importance of education as the best economic policy. The future lay in the marriage of education and technology, he said. "We will never compete on the basis of a low wage, sweat shop economy." Knowledge was power, information was opportunity, and technology could make it happen.

He announced to the conference that BT had agreed that

in return for full access to the cable entertainment market – denied them by the Government – the company would connect up every college, hospital and library in Britain for free as it built the cable network.

"They get the chance to win new markets. The nation gets the chance to succeed. That is what I mean by new Labour, that kind of co-operation."

He said David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, would be opening discussions with education authorities and computer companies towards

the goal of ensuring that every child had access to a laptop computer.

Avoiding the contentious words "grant-maintained schools", he said there would be no more dogma in education and no more arguments about structures. "For every school, fair and equal funding. No return to selection, academic or social."

Labour would be the champion of standards for the 21st century. There would be a nursery place for every three and four year old and class sizes of

less than 30 for every five, six and seven year old.

Mr Blair said no-one pretended Labour could solve unemployment overnight, but no decent society could tolerate the present level of long-term unemployment with all the misery and social breakdown it brought.

"So we will take the excess profits of the new robber barons of Tory Britain in the privatised utilities, and use it for the most radical programme of work and education for the unemployed every put forward in Britain."

## Quotes

**Austin Mitchell MP:** "It was like a revivalist sermon. Well done, a very moralistic performance."

**Audrey Wise, left-wing MP:** "It is a speech I will keep by me as a reference point. It implied a very large commitment."

**Brian Mawhinney, Tory Party chairman:** "This was a recycled speech from a leader who admitted that his party is no more than a recycled version of Labour in 1945 and 1964."

**Hannah Wood, of Lewisham south-east London, 22:** "Dismissed the promise of proper access to a laptop computer. Proper access to a decent diet is a higher priority."

**Alan Johnson, joint general secretary, Communication Workers Union:** "It was the most inspirational political speech for a generation."

**A member of the National Executive Committee said:** "Tony has said he loves the party. That is the new thing in this speech."

**Jeremy Corbyn, left-wing MP:** "A deal with BT is not the same as taking privatised industries back into public ownership."

**Rodney Bickerstaffe, leader of the public service union Unison:** "He was very strong on patriotism and I am delighted he mentioned his commitment to a minimum wage."

**Gerry Meyer, of Hove, East Sussex, 31:** "I am not disappointed, but what we should be doing is trying to force a general election by campaigning on some issues like a fixed figure on a minimum wage."

**Jerry Hayes, Conservative MP for Harlow:** "It was a masterly exercise in virtual reality with the rallying cry that 'every child should have access to a laptop computer.'

## Media diversion from star's crowd control



JIM WHITE

It was like a rerun of that old Vick's Syncex advert, featuring Malcolm and his blocked nose. At 6pm yesterday, everywhere in the Brighton conference centre people were tearing off in search of televisions, asking the question of anyone they passed: "What's the verdict?"

"Blair's speech? Brilliant."

"No, silly, the OJ trial."

It was going to take a seismic event to keep Tony Blair's efforts from dominating the front pages. And from the day of the earthquake it came: the Simpson acquittal was set to juice all opposition for the headlines.

The question Labour delegates – never slow at sniffing a conspiracy theory – wanted answered was: never mind how much OJ had slipped the jury,

demonstrated with Kevin Keegan on Monday, Blair knows how to control a football; yesterday he showed he is equally adept at controlling an audience.

Shot through with the Blairite mantra – the words "young", "new" and "superhighway" – it was a speech full of firsts. Here was the first time a Labour leader had so vigorously appropriated Tory values (the family, the law, the Union Jack). The first time a Labour leader had triumphed in deals with big business (New Labour not so much the party of opportunity as the party of BT). And, in his central words "let me tell you about my generation", Mr Blair became the first prospective Prime Minister

to be apparently scripted by Pete Townshend.

Indeed it was not only the words of the speech that reminded you of a pop concert. It had much of the rhythm and pacing too. There was the big start ("last year I was Bambi, this year I'm Stalin... from Disneyland to dictator in 12 months"); there was the new material slipped, to muted applause, into the middle; and there was the medley of old hits – bringing back the GLC, stopping rail privatisation, condemning French nuclear tests – towards the end.

And then there was the climax, saving the favourite tune till last, the one that goes: bash, bash, bash the Tories. A six-minute ovation it earned him, first alone, then hand in hand with Cherie, then in a cosy foursome with the Prescots, then alone again, providing the photographers with a dozen different angles. Stamps which will now, thanks to Judge Ito, be carried on pages eight and nine. So much for the media manipulation of New Labour.

So thwarted were they on their big day yesterday, you imagine that the clever apparatchiks who surround Mr Blair had already sent a delegation spinning down the not-so-superhighway to Winchester to persuade the judge in the Rosemary West case to save a particularly gruesome bit of evidence for next Thursday. About the time John Major is getting to his feet in Blackpool

JACK O'SULLIVAN and MATHEW HORSMAN

British Telecom has agreed to wire, free of charge, every school, college, hospital and library in Britain to the information superhighway. Tony Blair told the conference. He said David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, had also opened discussions with computer companies to ensure that every child has access to a laptop computer.

The BT deal, which follows meetings between Mr Blair and Sir Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, would, for example, allow small or rural schools to link up electronically with teachers at a remote location. Medical experts would be able to examine patients by video link-up. All these institutions would gain access to a vast amount of information. Once the link was installed they would have to pay for services.

In exchange for BT's offer a Labour government, from 2002, would allow BT, Mercury and other telecom providers to use their networks to broadcast entertainment services into British homes, in direct competition with cable operators.

This "open market" was already a firmly established part of Labour policy, but had not yet been made the basis of any explicit agreement involving BT. The concession could prove profitable to BT, delivering to them a potential market comprising millions of consumers.

The cable industry downplayed the significance of the deal. A spokesman for the Cable Communications Association said: "There's nothing fundamentally new about what Blair said today. We certainly share his view about the social and economic benefits of the information highway."

He added that the cable industry announced its own plans to wire schools around the country last January, and has since connected "hundreds" of institutions at no cost. Hospitals, universities and local councils have signed up as clients of the cable operators, and are using video-conferencing and other technologies, for instance to develop distance learning and remote medical diagnosis.

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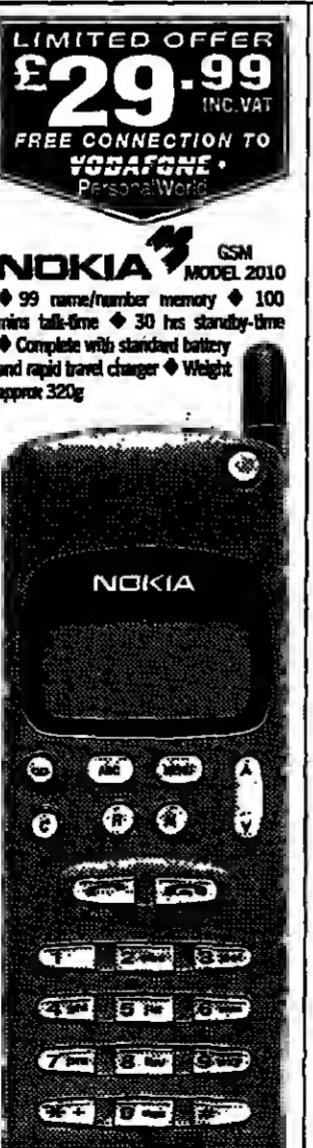
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# Pollution fear as Irish cattle deaths mount

**International team looks into cow disease and deformity in babies. Alan Murdoch reports**

An official inquiry by Irish, British and US scientists is to investigate the cause of widespread cattle deaths and human illnesses affecting up to 20 farms in Co Limerick, western Ireland.

If traced to industry, the problems would rank alongside Ireland's worst toxic pollution incident at Ballydine, Tipperary, in the 1980s when large numbers of cattle were poisoned by industrial emissions.

Attention has centred on three farms around the village of Askeaton. But animal health sources say the number of farms suffering unexplained abnormalities is around 20. Animal deaths linked to immune system failure are reported from as far as Rathkeale, four miles from Askeaton.

Residents in Askeaton and Ballysteen are concerned about acrid night-time emissions which sometimes force residents to cover mouths and noses when going outside. Allments have been sufficiently serious for children of two neighbouring farmers to require special treatment.

No warning has been issued against people on other farms consuming local milk, though tests by an Irish government laboratory showed above-normal fluorine levels. Contamination of the human food would represent "the nightmare scenario," an Irish Farmers' Association spokesman warned.

Medical data is being collated for the inquiry by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). But farmers fear it lacks resources, and want investigations extended to also examine reported birth defects, including foals born without eyes across the Shannon in Co Clare.

Doctors are also concerned. Dr Mary Grey, of the Irish College of General Practitioners, said known health problems included a "particularly bad deformed birth, the like of which the obstetrician had never seen before". Rumours of an unusual number of women experiencing multiple miscarriages remain unconfirmed.

The local TD (MP), Michael

Finucane, criticises long delays in starting comprehensive tests. Citing the Ballydine incident, he says that "the most fundamental lesson is that one cannot sit idly by".

Industrial sites on the southern Shannon shore include the giant Aughinish Alumina plant just three miles away. Tests by the British Agricultural Development Advisory Service (ADAS) found aluminium traces in dead cattle on the Ryan farm in Askeaton which were almost 20 times the levels considered safe.

ADAS confirmed to the farmer that high aluminium levels were present in bone ash from his animals. Three animals showed aluminium levels of 117 parts per million, 119 ppm and 790 ppm, many times greater than the danger levels.

Chris Livesey, a vet and head of toxicology and nutrition at Britain's Central Veterinary Laboratory, emphasised that aluminium is one of the most commonly-found elements. Testing is easily contaminated by aluminium from other sources. Scientists admit to uncertainty over what levels of aluminium are toxic, but confirm it is linked to animal disorders involving secondary phosphate deficiency.

After aluminium sulphate accidentally contaminated water supplies in Carmelford, Cornwall, in 1988, associated illnesses ranged from gastrointestinal disturbances to rashes and mouth ulcers. A neuro-psychologist who tested 20 local people found some suffered minor brain damage causing loss of co-ordination.

Emissions also drift towards Askeatoo from Moneypoint, the Irish Republic's only coal-fired power station 15 miles away. Critics complain it lacks basic "scrubber" filters and spews out thick smoke.

Initially, some investigators suspected iodine deficiency was a factor in the cattle deaths. A soil expert who helped investigate the Ballydine case says iodine levels "can be pivotal", affecting animal fertility, prolonging gestation and causing weak or "soft" calves.

Vets are wary, however.



In the dock: Locals blame Aughinish alumina plant on the Shannon, western Ireland, for the deaths of 20 cattle, but doubt remains over the evidence. Photograph: Brian Harris

Iodine deficiencies sometimes associated with goitrogens – naturally occurring chemicals in some clovers and other pasture plants that inhibit utilising of iodine – might explain animals' failure to thrive. But none could cite instances where it caused widespread cattle deaths.

The possibility that emissions from Aughinish or Moneypoint are involved is tempered by the fact that both are some distance from the worst-affected farms. Some investigators believe that had Aughinish's emissions affected cattle, those hit would most likely be "literally over the wall".

Both plants emit sulphur dioxide from their respective oil and coal fuels. If it were causing lethal animal health problems, enormous concentrations would have to be involved.

Aughinish Alumina strongly rejects suggestions that the company is contributing to health problems in the area. Pat Lynch, corporate affairs director, points out that the plant is subject to 64 impositions "covering all aspects of emissions" laid down in county council planning permission, given after a public inquiry.

The firm pays for monitoring by a state agency from a ring of points around the plant. "There has never been a problem," he says.

Aughinish processes more than 1 million tonnes of bauxite imported from west Africa into alumina for export to smelters abroad. Bauxite is crushed and ground, with alumina dissolved from "red mud" residue by the Bayer method, using caustic sodium hydroxide.

Mr Lynch says the principal emission is sulphur dioxide from burning fuel oil. He discounts high aluminium traces in cattle bone ash as a cause for concern. The element is "universally present", and abnormal readings can easily occur, he says.

He attributes animal illness to imbalances in mineral trace elements in pasture and lack of supplements. Farming practice has changed radically in the last two decades, Mr Lynch claims, resulting in cattle "not getting a balanced input, leading over a number of years to deficiencies that border on the dangerous".

Nitrogen and copper levels in grassland have often not been properly tested, he says: "They (the farmers) have been playing with dynamite."



Suffering: Scientists are investigating unexplained abnormalities among cows

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To enter our competition you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the seven we will be publishing in the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Today we are printing Token 5. One of your tokens must come from the Independent on Sunday. An entry form will be published at the end of the competition (Friday 6 October).

The Sri Lankan Experience can be taken between January and April 1996 or in October 1996, subject to availability.

For further information on the Sri Lankan Experience and Cox & Kings call: 0171 873 5000.

### RULES

- 1 To enter our Classic Holidays prize draw you need to collect 5 differently numbered tokens, including one from the Independent on Sunday.
- 2 An entry form will be printed on Friday 6 October 1995. The closing date for entries is 23 October 1995.
- 3 For previously published tokens or an entry form send an SAE to: IndependentClassic Holidays Prize Draw, Token Request & Entry Form, PO Box 83, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TT. Send the tokens you require (only 4 per application). If you need tokens or an entry form, please send separate SAEs. Requests must be received by first post 13 October 1995.
- 4 Employees and agents of Newspapers Publishing plc or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with the promotion are not eligible to take part, neither are their relatives nor members of their families or households.
- 5 Winners must co-operate for publicity purposes if required and accept their names and photographs will be published in the paper.
- 6 Photocopies of tokens are not acceptable.
- 7 The five holidays will be allocated at random to the first five entries selected in the prize draw.
- 8 Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. There is no cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final.
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**Police chiefs' conference:** Light sentences attacked in call to support victims of crime

## Howard demands sympathy for the 'have-a-go heroes'

JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

"Have-a-go heroes" who use violence to defend themselves against burglars and vandals should be treated more sympathetically by the police and the criminal justice system, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Howard implied that some police officers were being over-zealous in charging people defending their property with offences such as assault. "The impression is sometimes given that the victim is treated more harshly than the villain," he said.

He also made a thinly veiled attack on magistrates and judges for giving short or lenient sentences to criminals, particularly in the cases of domestic burglary. He said he was "surprised" to discover that only 10 per cent of first-time burglars are given a jail sentence when convicted at magistrates' courts.

Speaking at the Police Superintendents' Association annual conference in Market Bosworth, Warwickshire, Mr Howard announced that he had asked the Director of Public Prosecutions to review the standards needed for charging someone with assault. He said he was particularly concerned with cases in which someone defending themselves is charged, but after further investigation has the charges dropped.

The issue was highlighted earlier this year with a number of cases that caused public outcry including that of 82-year-old Ted Newberry, from Ilkeston,

Derbyshire, who was ordered to pay £4,000 after he fired a 12-bore shot gun at Mark Revill, an intruder trying to break into his garden shed. In June Major Roy Bamfistre-Parker, a retired war veteran, who allegedly broke the nose of a youth who broke into his house, was arrested and charged with assault.

Mr Howard suggested that if in doubt the police should consult the Crown Prosecution Service about a case before arresting or charging the suspect. "We must bear in mind the needless worry caused and anxiety to people who have already had their home or property violated, if they then have to wait several weeks to discover whether they must face court proceedings when they themselves are the real victims."

Mr Howard denied he was encouraging people to use violence. "I am not suggesting people should take policing into their own hands, or 'have a go,'" he said.

Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, president of the Superintendents' Association of England and Wales, said: "There is something wrong in our approach to victims when a pensioner who tackles two heroin addicts burgling his home finds himself complained about by the burglar and arrested for assault. It seems to me that we need to look again at the concept of self-defence and reasonable force."

Mr Howard also took a swipe at sentencing policies, some of which "still cause public dismay". "There is no point in Par-

liament providing the powers if the courts do not make full use of them," he argued.

He was "surprised" that a recent survey showed that the average sentence length for first offenders in burglary convictions at magistrates' is 3.7 months – the maximum is six months – and that the average for 10 or more convictions (not necessarily all for burglary) is about four months. In the Crown Court, where the maximum sentence for domestic burglary is 14 years, the average for first-time offenders convicted for a break-in was 14.4 months. The average for those with 10 or more previous convictions was 17.6 months.

"Maximum penalties are there to be used in the most serious cases," he said. "It is the courts' job to make full use of these powers."



Hot stuff: A fire-eater and a robot joining the launch of the new National Association of Street Entertainers at Tower Hill, London, yesterday. The group aims to promote quality performances throughout the country and campaign against obstruction laws. Photograph: Edward Webb

## Pensioner's defence of his property put him in the dock

LIZ SEARL



Ted Newberry, a retired hospital porter, so was fed up with vandals destroying his allotment at Ilkeston in Derbyshire that the pensioner decided to sleep in his allotment shed to catch the culprits red-handed.

But instead of finding vandals during his vigil in 1988, he realised that the noise he could hear outside was that of would-be burglars trying to break into the shed. So Mr Newberry took up a 12-bore shotgun and fired what he said was intended to be a warning shot through a hole in the shed door, because he feared for his life.

The shot hit one of the intruders, Mark Revill, aged 22, who was left with 50 shotgun pellets embedded in his body. Seven years ago, a jury cleared Mr Newberry of deliberately injuring Mr Revill, because of the pensioner's claim he acted purely in self-defence.

Mr Revill, also from Ilkeston, was jailed for six months for the attempted break-in and other offences. Last year, the father of four pursued a civil suit for damages, claiming that the close-range shot had left him suffering from regular blackouts and little use in his right arm and little use in his right arm and two of his fingers.

## Safety of children gets urgent review

An urgent review into whether new powers are needed to protect children from paedophiles is being conducted by the Home Office, it was disclosed yesterday, writes Jason Bennett.

Mr Howard said he welcomed suggestions by the police to introduce new "child protection orders", in which all convicted paedophiles would be forced to inform the police if they moved home. Child abusers would also be banned for life from working with children in the private, public or voluntary sector.

Mr Howard has also asked the Association of Chief Police Officers to suggest possible changes to the laws. "We are conducting an urgent review." The Superintendents' Association said yesterday that they were also concerned with the increasing use of the Internet information highway to distribute child pornography.

Chief Supt Brian Mackenzie,

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so happy I could cry." And so she did. So what was Margaret's advice? If you are thinking of moving or buying your first home, and would like a rate of 2.65% in the first year, £300 cashback and a free valuation, don't be crazy - just pop into your local Nationwide branch, or call free on 0800 30 20 10 quoting ref. PUS7.

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## news

### Grass 'on raid to fool Yardies'

A Yardie supergrass took part in a "terrifying" armed robbery to convince his gang he was not an informer, a court was told yesterday. Eaton Green, 28, was jailed for six years at Leeds Crown Court for the robbery at a Nottingham blues party.

Mr Justice Smedley told him the sentence was "substantially reduced" because of the help he had given the Metropolitan Police. The court heard that Green's gang announced they were the Sad Posse - Seek and Destroy - before terrorising and robbing about 100 guests at the party. Green also shot one of the male guests in the foot.

He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob, wounding and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life at a second trial in Leicester in June.

The first trial was abandoned after Green's role as an "A1" police informant on Jamaican Yardie gangs was revealed.

The court was told that Green came to Britain in 1991 and became a registered dis-informer soon after.

Nicholas Gardiner, for the defence, told the court: "He was of great importance to the police because of the difficulty there is in gaining information on these organisations."

"Few people are prepared to assist with information because of the terror of reprisal".

Mr Gardiner added: "The international Yardie community will obviously be looking for him and, to put it plainly, if he's caught he will be killed."

Mr Justice Smedley said: "You took part in this terrifying robbery, weapons being fired into the ceiling, your weapon being discharged on the floor."

"That sort of appalling violence can only result in people receiving substantial prison sentences in the region of 14 years."

But he described Green's decision to give evidence for the prosecution at the second trial as "extremely courageous", adding: "It does mean that I shall give you a substantial discount on your sentence."



Fruits of labour: A judge assessing apples in the Royal Horticultural Society's fruit and vegetable competition at Westminster, London, yesterday

Photograph: Edward Webb

Britain clinch handover

### Life-support boy, 5, dies after court ruling

BILL BROWN

A five-year-old brain-damaged child has died in a Channel Islands hospital two days after the Islands Royal Court gave permission for the medical treatment that kept the boy alive to be ended.

The court sat for four hours in St Helier, Jersey, on Saturday before deciding to allow doctors to withdraw feeding tubes and end treatment.

It was the first time such an application had been made in the Channel Islands. The court has ordered that the identity of the family be protected.

The boy, referred to as Michael, suffered brain damage after he was found near the bottom of a private swimming pool on Jersey on 4 September. Michael's father desperately tried to resuscitate his son even though he appeared to be dead, having been under water for 10 to 15 minutes. An ambulance crew continued the resuscitation attempts and by the time they reached hospital Michael had a heartbeat.

The court's landmark judgment was made public yesterday afternoon. Judge Deputy Bailiff Francis Hamon said this verdict did not open the way to euthanasia cases. He confirmed the sanctity of human life but said doctors' evidence showed that the last vestiges of hope of a recovery had gone.

Peter Garrett, of the anti-abortion group Life said that things had moved too quickly. He compared the case to the long-running legal battle over a victim of the Hillsborough disaster. "They have gone through in three weeks what took years in that case."

Mr Garrett added: "I would have taken advice from more specialists. He should have been kept alive, you can't make these

decisions in less than two years. The boy was in a lot of pain and compassion has moved them in the direction of acceleration."

Dr Henry Spratt, a consultant paediatrician, told the court that Michael opened his eyes the day after the accident, but began suffering severe spasms. A brain scan revealed the extent of his injuries. He was transferred to a specialist unit at Southampton General Hospital and began to recover.

There was one dissenting voice over Michael's case. Consultant paediatric neurologist Dr Colin Kennedy, at the Southampton unit, wrote: "The chances of him dying in the near future remain substantial. On the other hand, there is a small chance that his survival will be prolonged."

Dr Spratt said that when Michael returned to Jersey his condition deteriorated to the point where it was believed that all hopes of recovery were gone. "This leaves in its wake the great practical problem of how to relieve the continuing pitiable suffering of this likely dying child," he said.

On 26 September Michael's father asked for feeding to stop. In a letter shown to the court he wrote: "Furnish medical treatment for the sole purpose of enabling him to end his life and die peacefully with the greatest dignity and the least distress." The order was given and Michael died yesterday at 7am.

Giving his judgment, Judge Hamon said: "We do not believe that in this judgment we have interfered in any way with the hallowed concepts of criminal law. We must reiterate that we confine, above all things, the sanctity of human life."

"We believe that how Michael died will affect how his short life is remembered by those who grieve his passing."

#### DAILY POEM

##### World Service

By Hugo Williams

Ten to four and the World Service is still on upstairs, which means that you are sleeping well again tonight, which means that it got you off to sleep and hasn't yet woken you again. The sound of waves from the sea at the foot of the cliff washes over the voices coming and going in waves.

A motor scooter starts up, then fizzles out again. I can't sleep, so I get up and look out of the window onto the dimly lit esplanade, where one or two couples are finding their way home from the clubs.

I feel jealous and sad, but I like to see them, lingering at discreet intervals under the palm trees.

Out at sea, the last fishing boats are coming in, their big lamps slung below the horizon like stars.

For a moment, the broadcast voices upstairs rises above the waves, insistent, incoherent, cracked. You wake yourself and manage to reach out a hand to switch it off. 6.30 and the World Service is quiet, which means that you are sleeping well again tonight. Far below, the beach tractor ploughs back and forth, readying the beach for another day.

Hugo Williams was born in 1942 in Windsor and brought up in Sussex. He worked on the *London Magazine* from 1961 to 1970 and his first poetry collection *Symptoms of Loss* appeared in 1985. Since then he has earned his living as a journalist, critic and travel writer. In the late 1980s he was awarded both Gregory and Cholmondeley Awards and six further collections have appeared including *Dock Leaves*, from which this poem is taken, published in 1994. *Prelancing: Adventures of a poet*, Hugo Williams's collection of writings from the TLS, is published next week by Faber.

### In 1886 we saw transport with fire

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The military junta may have a dismal rights record, but it is tackling the burgeoning narcotics trade, David Orr reports from Kano

## Nigeria braced for war with drug lords

**side**

The woman stood before the general, her gaze shackled. She was heavily built, in her late forties, and her face was blotchy and unhealthy-looking.

Mama Laide, as she was known among local traders, had been arrested at Kano airport. Customs officials had found 550g of cocaine concealed in her hair. According to her ticket, she was bound for Amsterdam, although her passport also contained visas for Switzerland and Britain.

"Look up so people can see you," growled General Musa Bamaiyi, head of the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). "How many children do you have?" Glancing nervously towards where the general sat, the woman replied that she had eight children.

"Why didn't you give the drugs to your own children first, instead of taking them abroad for other people to become addicted to?" he asked. But the woman had nothing more to say. With a wave of his hand, he gestured for her to be led away.

It was a day of triumph for General Bamaiyi. He had paraded a convicted drug courier before the assembled Kano state officials, army officers and policemen. He had presided over an impressive little spectacle: the burning of 700kg of cannabis, heroin and cocaine seized in Kano state, northern Nigeria. The bonfire was still smouldering as the guests sipped their soft drinks and congratulated the general on his tough anti-drugs speech.

### Troops foil coup in Sierra Leone

CHRISTO JOHNSON  
Reuters

Freetown — Troops loyal to Sierra Leone's military government foiled a coup attempt yesterday and six officers were arrested, military sources said.

A Western diplomat and residents of Freetown, the capital, reported heavy gunfire in the early hours.

"The government in the early hours with loyal forces foiled a coup plot in which six officers have been arrested and detained at the central prison," one officer said. Earlier, senior officials at Freetown's Pademba road Central Prison said six army officers had been arrested and brought to the jail, accused of plotting a coup.

Freetown was calm but the road to the prison was sealed off and military guards around it strengthened. Residents said they heard sustained gunfire from the direction of the military headquarters.

### Ivory Coast to hold poll in spite of riots

THALIA GRIFFITHS  
Reuters

Abidjan — Ivory Coast's President, Henri Konan Bedie, told opposition leaders yesterday there was no question of postponing presidential elections due in three weeks despite violent protests which shook the country this week. "I will not go back on the electoral law, he told about 90 representatives of political parties.

Mr Bedie, himself a candidate in the 23 October poll, attacked opposition leaders for calling protests on Monday in which at least three people were killed. The opposition wants the government to withdraw a new electoral law which prevents the former prime minister, Alassane Ouattara, from standing for president in the election.

It also wants an independent electoral commission to oversee

from a producer in Latin America, ship directly to the UK and sell it on the streets.

What makes it particularly difficult to break up the Nigerian drug-rings is their flexible structure: a trafficker can work for one drug baron one week, then switch to another "firm" the following week.

The web of ethnic ties which binds this loosely connected fraternity is well-nigh impenetrable from the outside. "Trying to stamp on Nigerian drug-trafficking", Mr Mazzitelli says, "is like trying to make a piece of jelly stick to the wall."

Despite the military government's appalling record on instituting reforms, the Nigerian authorities appear to take the drug issue seriously. Already Nigeria has lost millions of

dollars of American aid because of the blacklisting. Two years ago the NDLEA, known to be riddled with corruption, was shaken up. Earlier this year it was granted extra powers, enabling it to investigate and seize bank accounts suspected of holding laundered drug money.

International drug-control experts do not believe there is evidence of direct involvement in the trade by the military government. Corruption, however, is endemic in Nigerian society, and co-operation between political figures and drug barons cannot be ruled out. According to diplomatic sources in Lagos, General Bamaiyi has stood on so many high-ranking toes that pressure is growing inside the government for his removal.



Drugs bonfire: A soldier watches seized cocaine, cannabis and heroin being burned

Photograph: David Orr



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# obituaries/gazette

## Mollie Harris

**Martha Woodford** was a village shopkeeper and an archetypal mistress of gossip. There was nothing that she did not know about her village and, if she was often wrong in what she thought she knew, the free market that is village gossip soon put her right. She had a real country inquisitiveness; she never let a red herring go.

The shop was in Ambridge, six miles south of Borthwick, in Dorsetshire, the home country of the Radio 4 series *The Archers*. To call Ambridge a "fictional" place is to plunge into a logical fallacy. On Monday to Friday between the times of 1.40 and 1.55pm or 7.05 and 7.20pm (10.15-11.15am for a long lie on Sundays) Ambridge is a far more dependable world than any in non-fiction. Since 1951, when the "everyday story of country folk" was first broadcast, Ambridge has developed its own mythic, separate existence. Writers, actors, producers come and go, but nothing can stop the *vis-à-vis* at the Bull, the pouring of tea at Brookfield, the ceaseless squabbles at Grange Farm.

Martha Woodford was the village shopkeeper. Mollie Harris was Martha Woodford. She joined the series in 1970, creating the part of Martha, widow of Herbert Lily, the postman at Penny Hasset, up the road from Ambridge beyond Lacey Hill. Two years later, at the age of 50, on Christmas Day 1972, Martha married Juby Woodford, an amiable and illiterate woodman. He it was who insisted that she take the job in the shop-cum-post-office as the employee of Jack Woolley, the local entrepreneur, proprietor of the *Borthwick Echo* and owner of the Grey Gables Country Club.

Martha became if not a leading then a central character in the *Archers* story, especially so after the death of Juby, when

she attracted the attentions of the roguish Joe Grundy and the down-on-his-luck Colonel Danby. The mechanics of soap writing demand regular establishing scenes in the pub, the wine bar, the shop, and there in the shop, amidst the village maelstrom, bright, decent, invertebrate gossiping, always appeared Martha, her ripe voice the very spirit of country reassurance.

Jack Woolley tried to retire her once, in 1988; it was thought that she was losing her grip on the figures, that she was at a loss with VAT. But she would not be eliminated. She went part-time, sharing her duties with the stalwart Betty Tucker, martyr to a milkman's husband. Only five weeks ago Martha was getting Neil Carter the pigman turned feed rep, into trouble with his wife the ex-con Susan by talking out of turn behind the counter.

Now Mollie Harris has died. What will happen to Martha Woodford? A BBC spokesman yesterday revealed the script-writers' helplessness in the face of such events, where the two battling realities of life and soap-life cross. "It is our practice," he said, "to discuss this with the family as and when appropriate." By the family, he meant not the Archers, but the Whodfords (Martha left no children), but the Harnises.

"There is no question," he added, "of recasting the part."

**JAMES FERGUSON**

Mollie Harris had another life outside *The Archers*, writes Hugo Brauner. Her first book of autobiography, *A Kind of Magic*, recounting her childhood in West Oxfordshire, was published in 1969, the year before she joined the series. And she had by then already made a name for herself as a writer and broadcaster on rural matters in the south Midlands.

In the post-war years she wrote and contributed to programmes including *In The Country*, presented by Phil Drabble on the Midlands Home Service, and *The Countryside*. She was also one of the first voices on BBC Radio Oxford when it started broadcasting, and for a number of years she delighted listeners with her tales of the Oxfordshire countryside.

Her second book of memoirs, *Another Kind of Magic*, appeared in 1971, and the third, *The Green Years*, in 1976. All three were reissued this year as a trilogy, under the title *All Kinds of Magic*.

**Mollie Woodley**, writer, broadcaster, actress born Ducklington, Oxfordshire 23 June 1913; married 1937 Ginger Harris (died 1982; one son); died Oxford 2 October 1995.

She was born Mollie Woodley, in Ducklington, near Witney, in 1913, and brought up in what she described as "happy poverty". But nobody who met her in later life could have guessed that she had been born before the First World War. She looked much younger than her years, and took care to conceal her age from her acquaintances. Although brought up at Ducklington, she lived for most of her life in Eynsham nearby, immortalising it in *From Acre End: a portrait of a village* (1982). Her husband, Ginger Harris, was a central heating engineer who worked for Aldens, in Oxford. He died in 1982, and they leave a son, Peter.

Mollie Harris's auto-biographical works form the heart of her oeuvre but she was also the prolific author of illustrated books on local crafts and topography, including *Where the Windrush Flows* (1989) and *Wychwood: the secret Cotswold forest* (1991), both illustrated with paintings by her cousin Gary Woodley. A great maker of country wines, from fruits, parsley in elderflower, she passed on her experience in *A Drop n' Wine* (1983). Her very special enthusiasm for traditional sanitation was displayed in *Cotswold Privies* (1984) and *Privies Galore* (1990), and in two exhibitions at Cogges Museum, Witney, which she organised and launched in style.

She was slightly above average height, an ebullient figure, fond of dogs (she is survived by her spaniel Fedora), and a great walker, recounting her enthusiasm in *The Magic of the Cotswold Way* (1987).

She lectured and was tremendous promoter of her own books. She used to buy them in quantity from her publishers and sell them at the end of her talks. She was a born public speaker, but for her writing was more of a struggle. Yet her hooks effectively convey her charm and vivacity.

For years she raised money for the Imperial Cancer Campaign by means of sales in Eynsham, first in her garage and, when the events grew too large for it, in the local Women's Institute hall, often opened by one of her colleagues on *The Archers*.

**John Eastwood**

John Eastwood developed the largest integrated chicken- and egg-producing company in the world, transformed chicken from the dross of common meat to the cheapest and initiated a decline in the price of eggs which, in real terms, still continues.

Jack Eastwood was born in 1909, the son of William and Elizabeth Townroe Eastwood. He left Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Mansfield, at the age of 16 on the understanding that his grandfather had bought a small farm and that he would be able to work on it. But the deal fell through and instead he joined the family's civil engineering business, Adam Eastwood & Sons, started by his grandfather, who had migrated from Yorkshire to work as a carpenter on the fifth Duke of Portland's extensions to Welbeck Abbey, near Worksop.

By the time he was 21, Eastwood was put in charge of the company's biggest contract, installing sewerage at Romford, Essex. When it was finished and he had married his childhood sweetheart, Constance Tilley, Eastwood announced he in-



Eastwood and his chickens: his company, J.B. Eastwood Ltd, supplied some 10 per cent of the British chicken and egg market. He sold it in 1978 to Imperial Tobacco

## Sir John Eastwood

John Eastwood developed the largest integrated chicken- and egg-producing company in the world, transformed chicken from the dross of common meat to the cheapest and initiated a decline in the price of eggs which, in real terms, still continues.

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By the time he was 21, Eastwood was put in charge of the company's biggest contract, installing sewerage at Romford, Essex. When it was finished and he had married his childhood sweetheart, Constance Tilley, Eastwood announced he in-

tended to take a farm in Essex. His father responded by buying the substantial Belle Eau Park Farm, in Bishopton, to attract him back home.

Eastwood then became a farmer as well as helping with the civil engineering business, and his wife developed poultry units at Bishopton which became large enough to attract local attention. They included some thousands of turkeys for Christmas and, eventually, 3,000 laying hens in homemade cages.

Following the end of the Second World War, the Nottinghamshire Agricultural Executive Committee chose John Eastwood to reclaim for farming the area of Rufford Park, on the edge of Sherwood Forest, from its wartime military use. This set him on the track of making light sand-and-fertiliser feeds, using manure from a 3,000-sow pig unit.

By 1956, his intention had been caught by broiler chickens as a means of turning home-grown cereals into a higher value product to sell. His first broiler houses were fitted with

his own design of automatic feeder, the first in Britain, and he was delighted with the margins left by the chickens, which finished up at 4lb in only 11 weeks.

He multiplied their size and developed a 3,000-tonnes-per-week feeding-stuffs mill at Belle Eau Park, thought to be the largest in Britain at the time. A chicken-packing plant was incorporated and the plan was to repeat the pattern of mill, packing plant and broiler houses in Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, North Yorkshire and Fife. However, planning permission was refused for these sites elsewhere in Britain although eventually there were 11,000 acres devoted to the business.

The chicken business was run by the company set up in 1945, J.B. Eastwood Ltd, which went public in 1959, with Eastwood advertising all his many friends to buy shares rather than invest in their own farms. Egg units were added to the existing broiler units from 1963 and Eastwood came close to sup-

plying 10 per cent of the national market for both chickens and eggs. He sold it in 1978 to Imperial Tobacco

He was three times president of the Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Show and provided the society with a number of large buildings as well as funds to encourage other aspects of the show. He was knighted in 1975 and appointed a deputy lieutenant of Nottinghamshire in 1981.

At various times, he was an important benefactor to the Farmers' Club in London, the Royal Agricultural Society in Warwickshire and the Glyndebourne Opera, in Sussex. He became virtually blind in his early sixties and this extended his charitable works into new fields, including the establishment of talking newspapers in his home county.

**C. DAVID EDGAR**

**John Bealby Eastwood**, farmer, born 9 January 1909; founder W. & J.B. Eastwood Ltd 1945; chairman, Adam Eastwood & Sons Ltd 1946-55; Kt 1975; married 1929 Constance Tilley (died 1981; two daughters), 1983 Mrs Joan McGrath (died 1986); died Karsfield, Nottinghamshire 6 August 1995.

## Kenneth Parker

Kenneth Parker will be remembered for the outstanding contributions he made as head of the Police Department of the Home Office and Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District in the 1960s and early 1970s, times of thorough reorganisation of the police force.

The arrival in 1965 of Roy Jenkins as Home Secretary brought further important developments, notably the reduction by amalgamation of more than 100 police forces in fewer than 50, which again was completed successfully after careful planning and preparation under Parker's supervision.

A new police service had thus already begun to emerge when Parker was appointed Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District in 1967. New organisational changes were urgently needed and it was not long before Parker succeeded,

with the approval of the Home Secretary and Sir John Waldrup, the Commissioner, in implementing co-ordination of the responsibilities of the police and civil staff which had previously operated under separate offices. Parker became chief administrative officer in the force, reporting directly to the commissioner, while retaining statutory responsibility in the Home Secretary and Parliament as Accounting Officer for the forces of the force.

A new approach was thereby introduced in the general management of the Metropolitan Police with Parker, in his extended role, increasingly associated with policies affecting the force as a whole. There were serious issues to be faced, and following Sir Robert Mark's appointment as Deputy Commissioner and later as Com-

misioner, Mark and Parker were in ever-growing harmony in formulation of policies to start putting matters right.

Much was achieved during Parker's seven years as Receiver, to which Mark gave generous recognition in his annual report to the Home Secretary in 1974 following Parker's retirement, concluding: "No Commissioner can ever have received more willing and valuable help from a Receiver. Few departures from Scotland Yard can have been regretted so much or with such good cause."

Parker's early years had been

much like those of others obtaining entry to the higher grades of the Home Civil Service. Leaving Tottenham Grammar School, in north London, as head boy with a scholarship for St John's College, Cambridge, he took a double First

in history and entered the Home Office at the age of 22. But what followed brought distinctive and unusual features.

The first was that preparations for the Second World War took Parker into the new field of Civil Defence, leading to the headquarters of the London Civil Defence Region as London came under attack. There he made his mark with Sir Ernest Gowers, the Senior Regional Commissioner, following after the war by selection for the Imperial Defence College and working with Sir Sidney Kirkman (Montgomery's artillery commander) in the Civil Defence Department of the Home Office.

When Parker retired in 1974 he was asked to take a role of identifying officers of promise for higher training at the Police College, and he never lost a

most close interest in developments in the service.

Much more made up the success in official duties. Those who worked with Parker remember particularly his integrity, which was accompanied by a most equitable temperament and lively sense of humour. Advice was always kindly given to those who sought it, and only the imprudent did not heed his words.

No one who knew Kenneth Parker well ever thinks of him without also thinking of his wife Freda, his support for 57 years. At their home at Kew shelf after shelf of books on the ground floor and rows of fine French wines in the cellar – men and women from different walks and levels of life gathered often for generous hospitality and much enjoyment.

R. A. James



**Kenneth Alfred Lamport Parker**, civil servant; born 1 April 1912; Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Home Office 1955-57; Head of Police Department 1961-65; CB 1959; Receiver for the Metropolitan Police 1967-74; married 1938 Freda Silcock (one son, one daughter); died 11 September 1995.

Further to your obituary of Roye England [by Austin Attewell, 16 September], Roye spoke and supported Esperanto, writes Professor John Wells.

It was when I stayed overnight at his Three Poplars youth hostel as a 16-year-old that he recruited me by selling me an introductory booklet. I went on to compile the standard two-way English-Esperanto dictionary and in due course to become President of the World Esperanto Association.

**MARGARET GORMAN CABILL**, died Bowie, Maryland 1 October, aged 90. Winner in 1921 of the first Miss America beauty contest. Her prize was a 3ft-long golden mermaid.

## Home Office policy on life prisoners unlawful

### LAW REPORT

4 October 1995

should be served if there was a risk to the public.

The Home Secretary refused the applicants' solicitors' request to refer the cases to the parole board so that they would be heard immediately on the expiration of the tariff periods in 1995. When the cases were referred to the board the chairman refused applications for expedition of the hearings and hearings were fixed for December 1995. The applicants applied for judicial review of these decisions.

Mr Justice Dyson declared that the Home Secretary should have referred the applicants' cases to the parole board at such times as would have ensured so far as practicable that their cases were heard by the board immediately on the expiration of the tariff periods. Their sentences were unreasonable and unlawful.

Mr Justice Dyson said that section 34 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972 required the release of life prisoners. The European Court of Human Rights had held that it was the right of prisoners to be released if there was no longer a risk to the public and prisoners were entitled under article 5(4) of the European Convention on Human Rights to a judicial determination of the question of risk.

The Home Secretary accepted that he had a discretion to refer cases to the board before the expiration of the tariff period but that, in view of the statutory provision which created the exercise of executive discretion, he had to wait until the expiration of the tariff period in order to make use of his discretion. He had paid the penalty imposed by the court to meet the needs of retribution and deterrence; detention thereafter could not be justified unless the prisoner continued to be dangerous. The ECHR had held that a period of eight weeks delay before a hearing was difficult to reconcile with the notion of "speedy".

The policy flouted the principles of common law and the European Convention. The common law required that a discretionary life prisoner be released after completion of the tariff period unless he contin-

## BIRTHS

**BAYLEY** On 16 September 1995, to Anne (née Studdle) and Mark, a daughter, Maria Lucy Beatrice.

**FITZSIMONS** On 20 September 1995, in Cambridge, Philip and Gerald, a daughter, Beatrice Louise, a sister for Olivia and Harriet.

**LAWSON** On 26 September 1995, at Materne Grande-Duchesse Charlotte, Luxembourg, 10 Patrick (née Newton) and Gary, daughter, Sophie Elizabeth.

**LEWIS** On 28 September, to Paul and Alison, a beautiful daughter, Caitlin Anne Muckrise.

**ROGERSON**: see FITZSIMONS.

## DEATHS

**AUSTIN**: Desmond Harold Fryer. Died suddenly, on 27 September, aged 69. His ashes will be placed next to his dear wife, Colette, in Highgate West Cemetery. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Colette, Nuala and Michael, his brother David, and his family and friends. The funeral will take place at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, on Friday 6 October at 2pm.

## Birthdays

**McFall** John McFall MP, 51; Mr Richard Martin, former vice-chairman, Ahmed Lyons, 63; Mr Tony Meo, snooker champion, 36; Sir Hector Munro MP, 72; Dr Gareth Owen, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 72; Mr Gavin Pritchard-Gordon, racehorse trainer, 50; Mr Giles Radice MP, 59; Miss Anna Rice, television presenter, 57; Mr John Rutherford, rugby footballer, 40; The Right Rev Dr Richard Say, former Bishop of Rochester, 81; Mr Marcus Setchell, Surgeon-Gynaecologist to the Queen, 52; Sir George Sheldon, former High Court judge, 82; Sir James Spicer MP, 70; Miss Ann Widdecombe MP, Minister of State, Home Office, 48.

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

**Donations** to Cancer Research Fund £6 Levens & Sons, 0181-455 4992.

**BELL** Anthony Douglas. Physician. Husband of Frances, wife of Dame Sophie, Lady de Rothschild.

**LEWIS** On 28 September, to Paul and Alison, a beautiful daughter, Caitlin Anne Muckrise

# Can the City halt London's drift to the east?

Now that Paul Reichmann is back at Canary Wharf, the capital's geography could shift fast. **Paul Vallely and John Willcock report**

**T**he *jarret d'agneau* was reduced to half-price, a mere £7, as was the *rouget de lotte et coquilles*; even the *filet de boeuf* was only half its usual £17.50 per head. Starched white tablecloths came to Canary Wharf for the first time yesterday with the opening of a Docklands off-shoot of the smart West End eatery, the Café Pelican, decked out in its familiar green and gold and Art Deco lighting.

It is a sign of the times, that combination of up-market style and aggressive marketing. For though Pelican's meals may only be half-price for the restaurant's opening week, the war between Canary Wharf and the City of London will last a good deal longer as they recommence the contest to house the main growth in the nation's key financial institutions in the next century.

Canary Wharf, the 4.5 million square foot development featuring the 850ft tower that is Britain's highest building, was the great white hope of the Eighties boom and the great white elephant of the worldwide property crash of the early Nineties, when the Reichmann brothers and their Olympia & York company suffered simultaneous property disasters in New York, Toronto and London.

Canary Wharf went into administration in 1992 and was run by the 11 banks from whom the Reichmanns had borrowed until Monday, when a consortium of investors led by one of the brothers, Paul Reichmann, bought the development for a reported £800m. City analysts are clear about one thing: the gentleman's agreement reached when the banks called the shots – that the Docklands development would not poach big banks and finance houses from the Square Mile is off.

Reichmann is noted for his aggressive and adventurous deals to lure new tenants from the City, often involving the purchase of the leases on their old premises or tempting side-agreements on Manhattan properties in the Reichmann empire.

But one of the other key players in the consortium is Michael Price, an American financier who is known as one of the world's most pugnacious investors. Price has a vigorously interventionist track record of buying into troubled or undervalued situations, shaking the business with considerable force, and then selling at a vast profit – he bought one semi-bankrupt drug company for \$5m, turned it inside out, and sold it not long after for \$600m. The gloves will now come off in the fight between Canary Wharf and the City.

Things had already started to move in 1993 under Sir Peter Laven, former head of procurement at the Ministry of Defence, who became head of the new Canary Wharf Company when the banks took over from the administrators. Under his tutelage Canary Wharf has added to its client list the Personal Investment Authority (the Government's official personal finance watchdog) and the first European Union body to be based

## London-wide moves

From outside the City of London: London Underground (from Victoria), CS First Boston (from West End), Eurotunnel (from Aldwych), Mirae Group (from Holborn), Texaco (from Knightsbridge), The Telegraph (from Docklands).

## Migrating businesses

From City to Canary Wharf: Bear Steans International, BZW, Credit Suisse, The Independent, Morgan Stanley UK Group, Ogilvy & Mather. In the City rent is £12–£22 per sq ft, but a hefty service charge and rates – higher on older buildings – add up to £30. Larger sites are in demand (hence Canary Wharf's attraction). New developments with this in mind include Winchester House (£500,000 sq ft) and Baltic Exchange (£500,000 sq ft).

## Jubilee Line extension

From 1998, Wharf workers will be able to get to London Bridge in 7 minutes.

## Eastward Ho! The mass exodus to Canary Wharf

### Possible moves

Others who may move to the Wharf: Citibank (from various sites), other branches of BZW (from City), ABN Amro/Hoare Govett (from City), HSBC/Midland (from City), London International Financial Futures Exchange (from City), West Deutsche Landesbank (from City).

## Docklands Light Railway

Thatcher's baby has grown up to be a problem child. Additions to the railway, which opened in 1987, have been expensive and it is not designed to carry the numbers of people who use it. Extension of the Jubilee Line might make the railway redundant.

## Canary Wharf

Ships once unloaded imports from the Canaries here. Now trains disgorge thousands of commuters a day. 13,000 people work in 10 office buildings. A third of the complex – 4.5 million sq ft of office space – has been constructed. First tenants arrived in 1991 and 75 per cent of space has been leased. Quoted rents from £16–22 per sq ft, although the top 10 floors of the tower, which aren't being leased yet, will be more expensive. Service charge and rates add £9 to the price.

## The Tower

An 800-ft, 50-floor monolith, it is the tallest building in Britain and Europe's highest office block. It is designed to sway 13/4" in strong winds. No expense was spared on plush decor: 9,000 sq ft of Italian and Guatemalan marble line the 56-ft high lobby.

## Future development

Eight million sq ft of office, retail and residential buildings planned.

## Docklanders

63,000 people live in Docklands; 65,000 work there. Docklanders and commuters now enjoy the beginning of a symbiotic relationship, though this hasn't always been so. In the mid-80s building labour, low-skilled and high-income workers were drafted in from outside the borough. But in 1987, Tower Hamlets council set up a construction training scheme with the Canary Wharf Development Company, designed to create employment for local people. Some companies based in Canary Wharf have been involved in community projects.

## Amenities

A private health club panders to executive types. The number of shops and restaurants has doubled over the past year. Restaurants and bars sprout overnight: a Japanese noodle bar is eagerly awaited. Shops range from the prosaic – Books, dry cleaners, newsagents – to the posh – Jaeger Man, Lord Formel Weaz. Recent openings suggest business is booming.

in Britain, the European Medicines Evaluation Agency.

More recently the investment bank BZW, the merchant banking arm of Barclays, announced a £200m move of some of its 2,500 employees to the Isle of Dogs development, where it will join the oil multinational Texaco, the investment bank Morgan Stanley, the British arm of Credit Suisse, the advertising group Ogilvy & Mather, a large part of London Underground's administration and eight national newspapers including the *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Independent*.

Sir Peter recently did a tour of the Far East in an attempt to persuade more corporations, including Samsung in Korea, to base their European headquarters at Canary Wharf.

"We're very pleased," said Sir Peter, who has been asked by Reichmann to stay on as chief executive. "This development was valued at £50m two years ago, so to go for a price of around £800m is not bad."

The City affects to be less impressed. Michael Cassidy, chairman of the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London, yesterday firmly played down the significance of the Reichmann deal. "Whether the banks own Canary Wharf or Mr Reichmann owns it doesn't change our stance." He complains bitterly of Canary Wharf's recent "poaching" of City institutions and was clearly

stung when parts of BZW decided in the spring to relocate from the City eastwards to Canary Wharf without even talking to us".

Now Cassidy is bracing himself for a new phase of the battle. Canary Wharf currently offers almost half the rent and service-charge package of the City, and is holding out the inducement of substantial rent-free periods – as long as two years. For this tenants are locked into long leases.

At stake in the forthcoming struggle are at least six investment banks looking for vast new offices.

New technology and systems mean they all need big dealing floors.

The problem is that the City has few sites to build the new blocks required, whereas Canary Wharf can build as big as required, and to the customer's specification. Cassidy counters, in defence of the City: "We can't compete on cost with Canary Wharf, but we have quality of environment, proximity to all the key players and transport access, particularly to Heathrow. And you can walk from meeting to meeting in the City – Canary Wharf has still some way to go."

Indeed. While the Docklands Light Railway has improved considerably since it was installed, it is still subject to irritating delays.

And although access by road has been transformed since the opening of the £45m Limehouse Link tunnel, the island will have to wait until 1998 – or 1999, say pessimists

– for the opening of the Jubilee Line extension which will link it directly to the London Underground. Those who built a similar large-scale office development at La Défense outside Paris took the precaution of installing the transport infrastructure before anything else.

With the eastward drift end in Docklands? Thirteen years ago, when Michael Heseltine was Environment Secretary, he set up the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) to promote a grander scheme along a 40-mile corridor, across "a dead of towns" strung beside the Channel tunnel high-speed rail link. The dream of Thames Gateway – Hezzagrad, as it was irreverently dubbed – would cover six east London boroughs which had lost nearly 60,000 jobs between 1981 and 1991. "Docklands will large," said Mr Heseltine's adviser, Peter Hall, professor of Planning at University College, London.

More recently Michael Howard,

another Environment Secretary, spoke of a "golden corridor" up to 30 miles long on both sides of the Thames and announced a £4.5bn plan for government investment in a new road and rail link which would bring 100,000 new jobs and the same number of homes to the region. We shall see.

Certainly the Jubilee Line is to be extended beyond Canary Wharf to the part of Greenwich which occupies

the blasted dockland wastes inside the next great meander to the east. The LDDC is to concentrate on developing the Royal Docks – a huge area to the east of Canary Wharf, the size of the West End and the City put together.

Three big projects are planned, according to Michael Pickard, chairman of the LDDC, to "increase the pull of the East End to investors". First is an urban village being developed by the building group Wimpey. Second, the corporation is planning an exhibition centre, and third there is a university of technology and a science park.

But the LDDC is soon to be wound up by fiat of the Government, leaving the development of the region to the combined influences of the market and a group of left-wing councils not traditionally friendly to new business development. "Never in 100,000 years would the Docklands have been regenerated if it had been left to the local authorities," says Pickard.

Noo of which will bother the Reichmann consortium. So far only one-third of Canary Wharf has been built. Planning permission exists for another 8 million square feet and the foundations – the most time-consuming part of a new building – are already laid. It will take months, oot years, to throw up the rest. That is when the money will really start to roll in.

Additional reporting by Scott Hughes.

## Dordogne Diary

ANGELA LAMBERT

**T**he jaunty notes of Ride-A-Cock-Horse herald my most reliable source of information here in rural France: the BBC World Service at seven o'clock Greenwich Mean Time most mornings. It is salutary to hear the news according to global rather than national, let alone tabloid, priorities. Princess Diana is never mentioned, nor are footballers, film stars, charismatic healers or media moguls. It is austere, considered and finely balanced.

On Monday, news of the detonation of the second French nuclear test explosion – five times more powerful than last month's – led the bulletin, followed by the verdict in the trial of the terrorists who bombed the World Trade Centre in New York, and an earthquake in western Turkey. The first mention of British news – the start of the Labour Party conference – came well below the Portuguese elections in order of significance.

In the bars and cafés of this south-eastermost corner of the Dordogne they are far less excited about the second nuclear test than the fact that Eric Cantona's reappearance on the pitch after his nine-month ban was reputedly greeted with the singing of the "Marseillaise". When President Chirac appeared on French television to debate the nuclear issue, he said only: "There is no changing my mind." Secretly, many French admire this return to old-style Gaullist obstinacy. They cite the regal manner of Margaret Thatcher in the mid-Eighties, with whom they already compare their new president. His

political popularity but you hear many people say they are wholly in favour of the policy. That France has moved and continues to move to the right is beyond doubt.

There is a third great issue, come to think of it: terrorism. The current wave of attacks by a group that is the more sinister for being nameless – the bombing of the Place de l'Étoile, the Paris métro and the TGV – has left France in the grip of an invisible and all-pervasive fear such as has not been seen on the British mainland since the mid-Seventies. French police have carte blanche to take any necessary measures against terrorism. Since the bombing of the Jewish school in Lyons, schools throughout France are guarded by the police and parking in front of them is prohibited. This applies even in my peaceful village of Groléjac, whose infants' school has a barrier erected outside it.

Our local equivalent of *Time Out* is a newspaper called *L'Espresso Sarladais*, or "Going out in Sarlat". It has always been my ambition to appear in its pages, and I have just managed it – twice. First by befriending an abandoned black kitten whom we felt obliged to advertise in the paper's Lost and Found section (the column knows as "Nos amis, nos

petits"). Happily no one has rung up to claim her, so we waste hours watching her prance after butterflies and chase lizards. The French are notoriously unkind to cats and indeed regard most animals as useless unless they work or can be eaten. Our kitten, as though mindful of this, caught a mouse within hours of her arrival and we now have a mouse-free house and an almost lizard-free garden. Rest assured, we have found a good home for her when we leave.

The second burst of media attention came about because my third novel, the first to have been translated into French, was published here three weeks ago. I approached the office of *L'Espresso Sarladais* with a copy. The editor (not only member of staff) proved extremely tractable, reproducing the lengthy jacket blurb in its entirety the following week. Now at last local people believe my claim to be *écrivaine* – although I doubt whether in England the laundrette owner would have asked for a copy, tried to pay me nearly £20 for it, kissed me on both cheeks when I pressed it on her as a gift, and finally insisted that I should in return accept this week's washing free of charge.

It signals a great step towards acceptance when a French person greets you with a handshake, and yet another step when the handshake becomes a kiss. We have patronised the Café Divan in Gourdon – the little town due south of us, just over the departmental border into the Lot – for more than a decade. This year for the first time its elderly waiter, his splendid handlebar moustache curled and twisted upwards at each end and dyed an improbable black, greeted my partner with a handshake. This is the café in which, according to Selina Hastings's biography, the redoubtable Nancy Cunard – eccentric socialite and patron of the arts in particular black writers and poets of the Thirties and Forties – spent the last months of her life before dying, alone and abandoned, in a hospital outside Paris. The café still has more than a touch of the raffish. A notice in the entrance proclaims: "Café fumeurs. Non-fumeurs acceptés."

"*L'Espresso*" refers to recent decisions in some cities to crack down on people with Aids, tramps and chronic alcoholics. The mayor of Paris has made it illegal to be drunk on the streets. It may be a cheap bid for

soothing. When it comes to great cities such as Nice or Grenoble the bribes are said to run into millions of francs. Is this true, or just the age-old peasant suspicion of authority?

"*L'Espresso*" refers to recent decisions in some cities to crack down on people with Aids, tramps and chronic alcoholics. The mayor of Paris has made it illegal to be drunk on the streets. It may be a cheap bid for

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## Nicole's killer is still free

**O**n the night of Sunday 12 June 1994 in Brentwood, California someone murdered Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. Yesterday, when the "not guilty" verdict was read to the courtroom in Los Angeles and OJ Simpson, Nicole's ex-husband, walked free to the cheers of a large crowd, the sound of sobbing could be heard. The grief belonged to Nicole's family, deprived of a judgment that might have ended their suffering.

Many will shake their heads at the verdict, believing that justice has signally failed to be done. They may wonder what - short of video evidence - it would have taken to convict Simpson of the killings. Such feelings must be tempered by two considerations. The first is that only the jury can really know whether the weight of the evidence presented allowed conviction "beyond reasonable doubt". The rest of us are left to speculate.

The second concerns race. When the history of the trial comes to be written it is quite probable that its chroniclers will fix on Detective Mark Fuhrman as the man who swung the case. Fuhrman's testimony was central to the prosecution's case. It was important that he should be accepted by the jury as being above reproach: a conscientious and honest policeman doing his best for justice. And at first that was how he appeared. Then a jury, consisting of nine black people - all of whom will have experienced racism in a city scared by race - were confronted with compelling evidence that Detective Fuhrman was a liar, a higot and a racist.

Even before the Fuhrman revelations surfaced, the racial character of the trial had been established in polls showing that

a preponderance of white Americans thought him guilty, while blacks believed that he was probably innocent. To whites it was literally inconceivable that a complex plot could have been hatched amongst Californian law-enforcers to falsely convict a popular sportsman and TV personality. Blacks, with the Rodney King case fresh in their minds, had no such difficulty. With Fuhrman's exposure, any claim that the Los Angeles Police Department could make to putting justice first collapsed in rubble.

So what emerges from all this? There must be some deep misgivings about the nature of the adversarial system of justice, relying as it does on the seeking out of weak points in an argument, rather than in a quest for truth. Then there is the shared but slightly guilty voyeurism, stalked only by the misfortunes of others, and in which the American tabloid press has played a particularly unpleasant and demeaning role.

Many would add the televising of the trial on the debit side of the balance sheet.

And it is true that a terrible trivialisation of the deaths of two innocent human beings did result from the theatricality of the process. But would the unreconstructed racism of the LAPD have come to light, had the case not been played out before the cameras? Almost certainly not.

Above all, however, the significance of the OJ trial is the terrifying polarisation in US society between Americans of different colours and backgrounds. Whether the jury's verdict is right or wrong, Nicole Simpson's relatives must know that whoever killed her is probably still free because of the racism of the Los Angeles police.

## Can Labour find the promised land?

**T**ony Blair knew what he had to do in Brighton yesterday. After a remarkable year in which he has turned the Labour Party inside out and convinced most of the faithful that the sweater looks better with the seams showing, he had to address the country and talk not about new Labour but about the new Britain he believes a Labour government can construct.

The requirement was for a speech that combined vision, compelling analysis of the country's problems and a credible indication of the policies that will effect the change the country needs.

Mr Blair's Christian social democratic vision was powerfully restated. Socialism, he declared, was not about the state, economics or politics, but about moral purpose. "We aren't simply people set in isolation from each other, face to face with eternity, but members of the same family, community, the same human race. This is my socialism." Even in an atheist and agnostic age, hearts will be stirred by this. It promises a break with the bleak commercialism of recent years and an optimism about the potential for change without which politics is nothing. Mr Blair's declared journey is towards "a young country" where the eager embrace of new technology and a more effective education system drive forward economic performance and its citizens' sense of fulfilment.

But the more searching question is whether Blair's analysis and his list of mostly familiar policies represents a convincing agenda for creating this new

Britain, the "young country" of his imagination. Here the speech must be judged a failure. What it needed to do was to work through a handful of major policy thoughts and to explain how Labour's distinctive and coherent approach would effect not mild reform but transformation.

Two examples will make the point. On education, Labour still sounds painfully confused. Is Mr Blair intending to act against the "two classes of state schools" he warned against yesterday? Or does he really think that a harder drive on standards and class sizes will deliver the goods? Equally, his cheeky prime ministerial deal with BT about free connections to the superhighway for public institutions in return for allowing the company to get into the video business raises more questions than it answers. What does it tell us about Labour's view of its relationship with the private sector? Should government tax and regulate (at arm's length) these businesses to protect the consumer's interest? Or, should a Labour prime minister be directly pursuing one-off sweetheart deals with captains of industry?

This is the kind of muddle that will become more problematic as Labour sprinkles more policies across the seedbed of the Blair vision. In government it could be disastrous.

No one can doubt Mr Blair's integrity or his ambition. He said yesterday that he was playing not for a single election victory but to put Labour into power for a generation. He still has much work to do.

**ANOTHER VIEW** Mary Kenny

## Calvary of Catholic Ireland

**F**rom time immemorial Ireland has been described as a Catholic country that was hopelessly priest-ridden. "They are all Papists by their profession," wrote Edmund Spenser in the 16th century, setting the tone, "but in the same, so blindly and brutally informed, for the most part, as you would rather think them infidels." For the next 400 years, outsiders have scolded, berated, persecuted, ridiculed and naged at the Irish for their extraordinary loyalty to the Roman Church and its teachings. Against this barrage of external pressure Catholic Ireland stood firm.

To the priesthood the Irish people gave a very special trust and loyalty. These were men sprung from a peasant order - and, by virtue of their celibacy, immune from the dynastic temptations of placing their sons in positions of power and marrying their daughters off to rich politicians. Whatever the faults of the Irish Catholic priest, he generally observed punctiliously the chastity that he so sternly preached.

Now, suddenly, Catholic Ireland seems to be collapsing from within. In Dublin, the newspapers, radio and television lead editions and bulletins with priestly scandals, priestly sex abuse, and apparent episcopal covering-up of such acts, for all is what the Irish Catholic church would have called such lapses from the ideal in its heyday.

Some commentators see the root of the crisis in the authoritarianism of the Irish Catholic Church, but my reading of Irish Catholic material from the past 20 years

leads me to quite a different conclusion. From about the mid-Seventies onwards, the Irish Catholic Church has been increasingly liberal and even left-wing in tone and attitude. Practically every Episcopalian letter and statement from the Irish hierarchy since 1978 has taken up the theme (to rephrase John Major) of "understanding a little more and blaming a little less".

It was not because many of the offenders who have brought the Church in Ireland to such a position of shame were dealt with in an "authoritarian" way - but because they were dealt with in a forgiving, molly-coddling, indulgent way - that the problem endured. Cardinal Daly seems to have believed that saying sorry, with a "firm purpose of amendment", was enough to dissolve the offence of paedophilia; a perusal of the devotional literature from Catholic Ireland in the 1970s would show that pardon was withheld from any penitent until moral restoration was fully assured. Saying sorry was not considered to be sufficient for absolution until the post-Vatican II liberalisation.

What the Irish Catholic Church needs today is not more democracy - but more authority and a bit more toughness about right and wrong. It needs to keep its nerve, and accept, too, the Calvary it is now facing. Irish Catholicism was forged in suffering and always found renewal through pain. It will do so again: *le cinannum Dei*.

Mary Kenny's study *Goodbye to Catholic Ireland?* will be published in 1996.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### How to prevent tragedy and return Nigeria to democracy

From Mr Zaya Yeebo and others

Sir: On the 35th anniversary of Nigeria's independence from British colonial rule, we would like to add our voice to the growing call for increased pressure of the Nigerian military government to listen to the demands of its people and end the cycle of violence, state terrorism and gross abuse of human rights in that country.

The military junta headed by General Sani Abacha has trampled upon all forms of peaceful opposition in the country and sent most of the pro-democracy movement leadership into jail or exile. In addition, there are hundreds of people in detention under pain of death sentence, life imprisonment and long jail terms on trumped-up charges.

The international community has to help the pro-democracy forces in Nigeria. The regime needs trade, commerce, and diplomatic acceptability to keep it in power. It is amenable to pressures from these quarters. There is much that NGOs, human rights organisations, the British press and well-meaning people in the UK can do to put pressure on the British government, parliament and political parties in this country to achieve a complete isolation of the Abacha regime, and to help the process of return to democratic rule in Nigeria.

Instead of us preparing for the "tragedy waiting to happen", we can prevent it from happening by campaigning and lobbying for:

1. The release of all political detainees without conditions.

2. Restoration of all elected institutions at local, state, and national levels, including the presidency.

3. The release of all those serving jail terms, including life, and those suffering the pain of the death sentence over trumped-up charges of attempting to overthrow the government.

4. Isolation of the Abacha regime internationally through mandatory economic sanctions, and diplomatically.

Yours sincerely,

ZAYA YEEBO

Editor, *The African*

WASSA FATTY

Chairman, Africa Research and Information Bureau

KAYODE PAYEMI

Editor, *Nigeria Now*

NAPOLEON ABDUL

Editor, *African World Review*

TAJUDEEN ABDUL-RAHEEM

General-Secretary, Pan African Movement

London, SE1

29 September

Senate, etc. (All incidentally later dissolved by General Abacha.) So, everything was in place and up and running by the time the presidential elections took place on 12 June 1993. Under the two-party system (the multi-party system had been rejected by the military as "too divisive"), Chief Moshood Abiola of the Social Democratic Party and Alhaji Otun Tofa of the National Republican Party vied for the presidency. Chief Abiola having found popular support across all regions, religious, ethnic and occupational groups, secured 58 per cent of the vote in an election recognised as free and fair by national and international observers. The military lost its nerve, annulled the election and plunged Nigeria into a downward spiral of corruption and maladministration.

I read with interest last week,

that it may be possible to travel back in time.

Would that we could, for it is this concept that offers Nigerians the only hope they have for a future that encompasses freedom, hope, integrity and dignity. For they must, with the help of Britain, Europe, the US and the Commonwealth, go back to 12 June 1993.

Yours faithfully,

L.T. ROBBINS

Bloxwich, Staffordshire

2 October

From Mr I.T. Robbins

Sir: It is hoped that no one is surprised or encouraged by anything that General Sani Abacha had to say in his Nigerian Independence Day anniversary speech.

Nigeria is a complex country, of this there is no doubt. It took a transition plan of eight years by the Babangida administration (in which General Abacha was a key player) to put in place all the necessary political paraphernalia required to form 398 local governments; 31 state governors, state legislators, the federal House of Representatives, the

Senate, etc. (All incidentally later dissolved by General Abacha.) So, everything was in place and up and running by the time the presidential elections took place on 12 June 1993. Under the two-party system (the multi-party system had been rejected by the military as "too divisive"), Chief Moshood Abiola of the Social Democratic Party and Alhaji Otun Tofa of the National Republican Party vied for the presidency. Chief Abiola having found popular support across all regions, religious, ethnic and occupational groups, secured 58 per cent of the vote in an election recognised as free and fair by national and international observers. The military lost its nerve, annulled the election and plunged Nigeria into a downward spiral of corruption and maladministration.

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Yours faithfully,

L.T. ROBBINS

Bloxwich, Staffordshire

2 October

From Mr Neville Linton

Sir: David Orr's interesting article

("Nigeria waits for dictator to speak", 29 September) states that "the Commonwealth human

rights commission recently called for Nigeria's expulsion from the Commonwealth when heads of government meet in New Zealand in November". Presumably he is referring to the just-released report of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative's (CHRI) Mission to Nigeria and, if so, I would like to stress that the Mission has not recommended.

However, if it did suggest the

suspension of Nigeria from future Commonwealth official meetings

if the Abacha regime did not rapidly commence a credible

process of return to democratic order.

It should also be noted that the recommendations for sanc-

tions are to be read in tandem with the call on Commonwealth Heads to offer to the Nigerian

regime their good offices in helping to broker a transition program acceptable to the pro-

democracy forces and to the

people of Nigeria.

Given the nature of the Commo-

nwealth relationship, the CHRI does not recommend sanc-

tions lightly. As Chairman Kamal Hossain noted in the foreword to the Mission's report:

"I read with interest last week,

that it may be possible to travel

back in time. Would that we could, for it is this concept that offers Nigerians the only hope they have for a future that encompasses freedom, hope, integrity and dignity. For they must, with the help of Britain, Europe, the US and the Commonwealth, go back to 12 June 1993.

Yours faithfully,

NEVILLE LINTON

Member

CHRI Mission to Nigeria

London, SW16

29 September

From Mr Michael Burrell

Sir: Your front-page story

("Secrets of the MPs who help lobbyists", 3 October) is not a balanced account of what I said at a conference on Monday and, subsequently, to your Westminster

correspondent Chris Blackhurst.

After the conference he asked me to amplify comments I had made about the House of Lords.

It rapidly became clear that he meant the House of Commons,

since his interest was in standing committees which deal with Bills.

The committee stage for a Bill in the House is taken on the floor of the House, not in a standing committee.

I repeated to him - common

knowledge, not a "secret" - that

MPs who wanted to sit on a

standing committee for a particu-

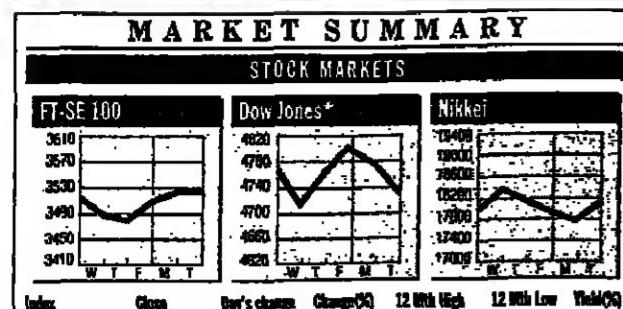
lar Bill would seek to speak on

Second Reading, since demon-



INDEPENDENT • Wednesday 4 October 1995

BUSINESS NEWS DESK, tel 0171-293 2548 fax 0171-293 2098



JOHN EISENHAMMER

Financial editor

Auditors are threatening to scupper Lloyd's hopes of ending all litigation against the insurance market as part of its £6bn reconstruction and re-oval programme.

Unless audit firms are brought under the protective umbrella of Lloyd's arrangements for global indemnity against litigation by disaffected Names, the insurance society will not escape from its long-running legal nightmare, leading auditors warned yesterday.

"Lloyd's must realise that if they leave us out of the settlement loop, and people gun for us, we have the potential to keep the whole mess going," said the senior partner in a leading City audit firm. Lloyd's recovery plan launched in May left out auditors from its proposed deal to buy an end to litigation, in return for Names making a final payment to cap their liabilities for old policy losses.

Auditors are now saying that even if such an agreement were reached between Names and

Lloyd's, they would bring the insurance society back into any future court cases as a third party. "They simply won't be able to seal off the litigation," said another auditor source.

This is just the latest of a spate of difficulties assailing Lloyd's as it attempts to knit together the disparate elements of the hugely complex settlement package. At its meeting today, Lloyd's ruling council is expected to abandon the intention to give Names an indication at the end of this month of what they will have to pay into Lloyd's new re-insurance vehicle, Equitas, to put a close on all liabilities for old policies.

But working out these sums for thousands of individual Names is dependent on negotiations on several contentious fronts. As part of the overall restructuring package, Lloyd's is offering Names an inducement to settle in the form of a £2.8bn debt-for-equity and credit package, which will go to reducing the amount Names will pay into Equitas. Lloyd's is banking on being able to increase this to above £3bn, but

this depends on getting contributions out of insurance market brokers and auditors.

Lloyd's had indicated it hoped for some £200m from the auditors. Most of the big auditing firms involved with Lloyd's appear now to have accepted in principle that some contribution will be paid, which will increase the overall inducement available to Names. But in return they want full protection from any future litigation.

"At present we are discussing the mechanism for ending litigation, what our protection. There will always be disaffected Names not willing to sign any settlement, and we

need to have the same form of

indemnity that Lloyd's will enjoy from Equitas, covering the costs of such potential cases," said a senior audit source.

The position of the auditors,

and what they might contribute in return for an indemnity deal,

is complicated by waiting for the court ruling in the key Merrett case. Turning on whether the

Merrett syndicates and their

auditors ought to have been more

aware at the end of the Seven-

ties and early Eighties of the po-

tential for enormous losses

from asbestos claims in the US, the ruling will give an in-

ication of auditors' liabilities.

The calculation of Names'

contributions to Equitas is also

dependent on resolving the dis-

pute with so-called persoal

stop-loss insurers, who are sup-

posed to insure Names against

big losses. Many are still refus-

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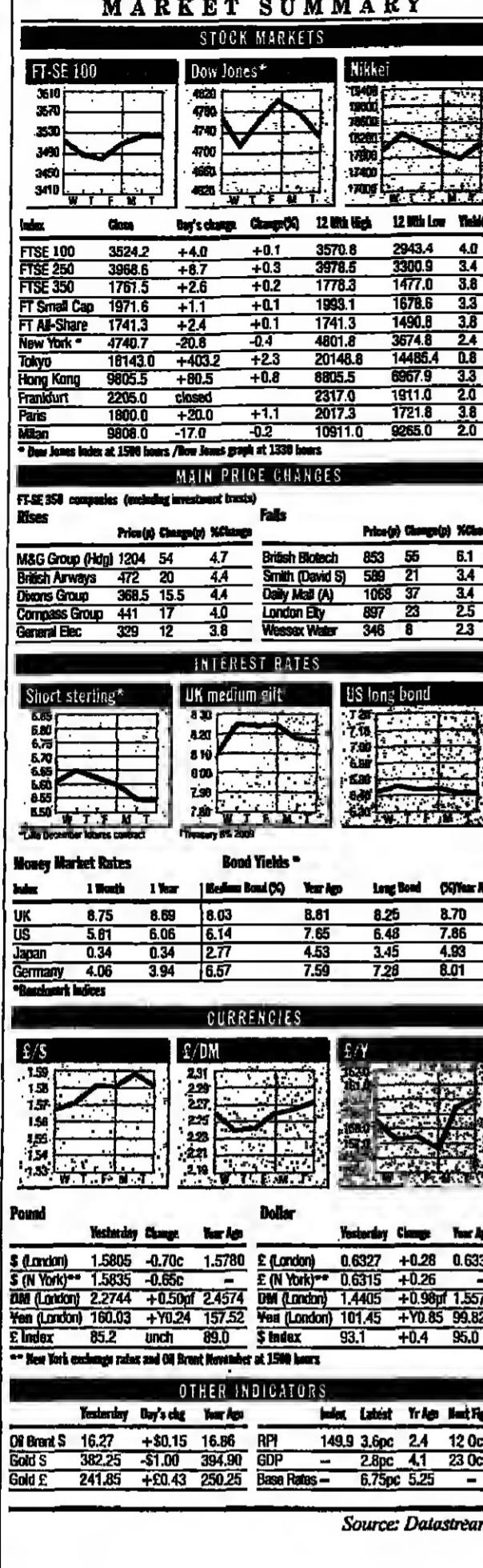
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CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

## Lloyd's rescue under threat



Photograph: Edward Webb



Source: Datastream

### IN BRIEF

#### O'Reilly buys newspaper group

Indepedent Newspapers, the Irish media group controlled by Tony O'Reilly, is to buy London Recorder Newspapers, publisher of free newspapers in north-west London, for an initial consideration of £1.14m in cash and £360,000 of independent shares. Further payments taking the total to £3m depend on gross profits in the three years to 1997. Independent Newspapers, which owns 43 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, publisher of the *Independent*, is also buying out the *Daily Mail* and Gecor Trust's 34.6 per cent interest in Computer Publishing.

#### Ibstock shutdown warning

Ibstock confirmed the fragile state of the housebuilding industry yesterday, warning that it would have to shut down part of its brick-making capacity during the winter to prevent stocks rising above current levels. Unspecified temporary job losses are inevitable. Ibstock boosted its share of the UK brick-making market in June when it paid £7m for Tarmac's brick operation. Despite the warning, Ibstock announced a tripling of pre-tax profits in the six months to June from £4.4m to £14.0m. The half-year dividend jumped 50 per cent to 0.75p.

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#### Spanish telecom sale demand

The retail part of the Spanish government's offer for sale of up to 12 per cent of Telefónica, the state-owned telecommunications company, has been more than eight times subscribed. The price for the retail tranche of the offer was set at 1.615 pesetas a share, or a 4 per cent discount to the final price of 1.683 pesetas. Telefónica said due to the heavy demand in the retail tranche the original offer of shares will be increased to two million.

#### Directors' pay

Directors of the British subsidiaries of multinationals saw their average gross earnings of £52,000 stuck firmly at the bottom of the European pay league, according to the latest annual survey of remuneration advisers Monks Partnership. Their position improved once tax and the cost of living were taken into account, but they were still worse off than colleagues in most countries outside Scandinavia.

#### City rents show increase

Total rents in the City of London moved up from £32.50 a square foot to £35 in the third quarter, according to figures from Richard Ellis, the surveyors. The increase is only the second improvement since the market bottomed out in June 1993.

#### Maxwell trial told of shares sale

A solicitor told the Old Bailey fraud trial yesterday that he was involved in the sale of millions of shares without realising they belonged to the Maxwell pension funds. Phillip Morganstein, former senior partner in Nicholson Graham & Jones, said Robert Maxwell asked him to give a legal opinion about the sale of 7.1m shares in Scites, an Israeli pharmaceutical company. He understood the shares belonged to the privately owned Robert Maxwell Group. He was never told by Maxwell that 5.4m of those shares belonged to the pension funds company. He said that Maxwell was "always borrowing from Peter to pay Paul". Maxwell's sons, Kevin and Ian and former Maxwell side Larry Trachtenberg all deny conspiracy to defraud by misuse of pension fund investments. The trial was adjourned to today.

## BR sells off catering arm

PAUL RODGERS

The sale of On Board Services, British Rail's catering arm, to management for £1.5m will be announced today by the Department of Transport.

The buyout is backed 60-40 by Candover, a venture capital company, and the Bank of Scotland, with the seven-member management team putting up an undisclosed amount to fund expansion and improvement of the service.

"We see our future moving further into Europe," Mr Coyle said. "With its high-speed services it's very attractive." The European rail catering sector is dominated by Wagon Lits and Sevafran from France, Germany's Mitropa and Rail Gourmet, a subsidiary of Swissair.

A flotation or trade sale is likely in three years, after current contracts with train operating companies have been renewed and an aggressive expansion programme put in

place. OBS hopes to raise its sales from a projected £37m in the first year to £55m by 1998. Its pre-tax profits have been estimated at about £2m.

Mr Coyle said growth would come from beefing up UK train catering operations with an airline-style service, opening retail outlets in the 33 railway stations where it currently has food preparation areas, and bidding for business on Europe's high-speed trains.

"We see our future moving further into Europe," Mr Coyle said. "With its high-speed services it's very attractive." The European rail catering sector is dominated by Wagon Lits and Sevafran from France, Germany's Mitropa and Rail Gourmet, a subsidiary of Swissair.

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place. OBS hopes to raise its sales from a projected £37m in the first year to £55m by 1998. Its pre-tax profits have been estimated at about £2m.

The reasons for this divergence in performance are not clear-cut. The weakness in the US market in the second quarter and continuing growth in the EU accounted for some of the difference. However, it is uncertain why imports should be rising so much more from countries outside the EU.

In the three months to July, the underlying volume of exports - excluding oil and erraticics - to the EU rose by 3 per cent while the volume of imports rose by 1 per cent. The picture with Germany and the Benelux countries was even brighter with a 10 per cent surge in exports in the three months to July. By contrast ex-

## Canary Wharf battle looms

JOHN WILLCOCK

Financial Correspondent

The war between Canary Wharf and the City for lucrative institutional tenants is set to intensify following Paul Reichmann's success in buying back the Docklands development.

Michael Cassidy, who chairs the policy and resources committee of the Corporation of London, played down the significance of the Reichmann deal, saying it would not make a huge difference to the scheme.

Mr Cassidy claimed that the City was in a stronger position than for many years to repulse the Docklands development's attempt to poach tenants.

He said ABN Amro, the Dutch bank which owns the broker Hoare Govett, had been offered the top eight floors of the Canary Wharf tower but preferred moving to new offices within the City.

But Deutsche Bank's decision in the summer to keep its combined investment bank with

Morgan Grenfell in the City had been a turning point.

The City had better transport links, especially to Heathrow, with its connections to areas representing 80 per cent of world GDP.

People would still prefer to work between meetings, Mr Cassidy said, and the quality of the City's environment was on the up because of the "ring of steel" set up following the IRA's Bishopsgate bomb.

"We have reduced road accidents and pollution because of this, and street crime is down by a third," he said.

Michael Pickard, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, is jubilant. Together with lettings of nearly 1m sq ft in the last six months, it would secure the project's long term future, he said. "Canary Wharf offers space on a scale simply not available in the City."

## Trade gap widens but trend confused

PAUL WALLACE

Economics Editor

with countries within the EU fell by £0.8b compared with the previous three months. However, this improvement was outweighed by a deterioration of £1.1b in the trade gap with countries outside the EU. The net result was an increase in the overall deficit of £0.3bn to £2.9bn.

In the three months to July, the underlying volume of exports - excluding oil and erraticics - to the EU rose by 3 per cent while the volume of imports rose by 1 per cent. The picture with Germany and the Benelux countries was even brighter with a 10 per cent surge in exports in the three months to July. By contrast ex-

ports to countries outside the EU stagnated while imports surged by 5 per cent.

The reasons for this divergence in performance are not clear-cut. The weakness in the US market in the second quarter and continuing growth in the EU accounted for some of the difference. However, it is uncertain why imports should be rising so much more from countries outside the EU.

With the prospect of a recovery in the US market, "there is a very good chance of better performance in the global trade balance in the second half of the year", said Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC Markets.

However, Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, warned that "the market will be wary of the trade position while the overall trend remains adverse, and until the explanation becomes clearer".

The composition of the increase in imports suggested that it is going to fuel increased investment rather than consumption. A downturn in new consumer credit in August to £535m from a revised figure of £681m in July might seem to fit in with this picture. However, the fall is more likely to be a reaction to the strong summer sales, particularly in clothing and footwear.

Consumer credit has been buoyant in the past



## COMMENT

"Bankers don't like running things, and given the chance to get their money back, they were always going to take it, despite the promise of the future"

## No free ride to Canary Wharf for Reichmann

The Reichmanns were always unusual as property developers and financiers. Deeply religious, their reputation was for austerity and plain living. Even after they had achieved what for most would be wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, they and their senior executives continued to drive around in stripped down Ford - one sun visor, no stereo, one wing mirror, no chauffeur. Their no-frills lifestyle endeared them to bankers, who naively believed they could do no wrong. As a consequence, the Reichmanns were allowed to do things that others could only dream of.

One of them was Canary Wharf, a project which, even before the property collapse, seemed wholly insane from a commercial point of view. When the end came, the Reichmanns blamed the Government, the City, the banks - everyone but themselves. To some extent, they had a point. The Government, having actively encouraged the development, failed to provide adequate transport infrastructure. The City did its best to sink Canary Wharf by sanctioning just about every alternative Square Mile development that could be conceived. The banks were unforgiving and refused to forgive their pound of flesh. But the other ingredient was hubris and that belonged entirely to the Reichmanns.

One of the generalisations that can always be made about white elephants is that the money to make them possible only becomes available at the top of the cycle. Another is

that during the following upturn, often under new ownership, they have a tendency to come right, in part vindicating the visionaries who initially made them possible.

That is what seems to be happening with Canary Wharf, now 75 per cent let and rising, with the vital Jubilee lifeline only a couple of years from completion. Paul Reichmann has chosen his moment to regain his empire, as always using somebody else's money. Bankers don't like running things, and given the chance to get their money back, they were always going to take it, despite the promise of the future.

Whether any banker or investor is going to lend Mr Reichmann the money to begin work on the second and third stages of the development is another matter. Already there is an ominous feeling of *deja vu* about events and that is not just because of the return of Mr Reichmann. The Corporation of London will fight the phoenix-like rise from the ashes of Canary Wharf tooth and nail. Mr Reichmann stands a better chance of succeeding second time round, but he is not going to get a free ride.

### A happy end in sight for BA

British Airways must scarcely be able to believe its luck. The investment in US Air has hung like a decaying albatross around its neck for so long, the whiff doing

no good at all for its share price, that the sudden prospect of the bird being transformed overnight into a highly fragrant and much sought-after golden goose is verging on the corporate fairy tale.

The news that a bid battle is developing for the troubled American carrier has sent BA's - and investors' - hopes soaring. They see the prospect of a happy end to what has become a grizzly story of frustration, as BA watched other European rivals make more of relatively trouble-free links with US airlines, while it struggled with what became known in the trade as US-Scare. As one observer put it, "It's BA's get out of jail free card."

Certainly, it would take care of USAir's financing problems. BA, which earlier this year wrote off £125m from its USAir stake - about half its investment - has said it would not put another penny into the company until its problems were sorted. Now, it seems, other operators are queuing up to do so. BA's 24.6 per cent stake cost about £19.50 a share, and yesterday's talk was that the bidding would start at around \$20. With other American carriers, such as Delta or Continental, also rumoured to be interested, a bid war could send the value of BA's stake soaring. It would be in a position to write back its investment, and could expect to receive the £15m or so in dividends that were deferred.

The big question for BA is, should it sell or should it sit on its rising investment? The company is clearly thinking of selling out if the price is right, and forming an alliance

with another US carrier. But establishing another partnership in the all-important US aviation market carries its own problems and BA would do better to stick with USAir, especially as the worst of its cost trauma seems to be behind it.

However comfortable BA's position suddenly looks, it would be wise not to get too excited. The stumbling blocks in the way of the deal are many, not least the practicalities of a merger between two of America's largest carriers. An airline merger is a difficult task at any time, and would be more so in the case of USAir, which has a history of union recalcitrance. There are also monopolies issues. United and American are already the top two airlines in the US, and a combination of either of them with USAir would create a monster able to dominate the US aviation industry.

well-timed central bank intervention to get its way in the foreign exchange markets.

Clearly, however, it would have been much better if the yen bubble had never occurred. The turning point appears to have been the decision at the end of June by the US administration to pull back from the brink of a trade war over access to the Japanese car market. At the same time, the Japanese authorities finally woke up to the need to revitalise a moribund economy with long overdue cuts in interest rates, a further fiscal stimulus and the first tentative steps towards an earlier resolution of the banking crisis.

The lesson is clear: currency co-ordination can only work when it is being supported by national policies. Even so, the damage has been done, with the Japanese recovery set back by a year and European growth more sluggish as a result of the appreciation of the German mark against the dollar. Global growth has taken a hit.

This week's world economic outlook from the IMF is likely to confirm the gloomier outlook for global economic growth that the bond markets have been discounting for months. The effect of the slowdown has already been felt by Britain's exporters, contributing to the widening in the trade gap. The cause of international currency co-ordination may seem a remote one; the failure to achieve it has real consequences on the ground. Some bow or other, common ground must be found in complementary national policies to reduce the wild swings in exchange rates.

## Norweb battle becomes electric as Texas Energy raises bid

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

The battle for Norweb, the regional electricity company, intensified yesterday with an increased offer by Texas Energy Partners valuing Norweb at £1.74hp. Rival bidder North West Water is now widely expected to raise its bid for a second time but Texas also made it clear it was prepared to consider another counter attack.

In the most hotly contested takeover attempt in the sector so far, Texas raised its offer to £1.85 per share compared with North West's increased cash offer last week of £1.75 with an offer of £1.05 in cash and shares.

The US group, a partnership between Houston Industries and Central and South West Corp (CSW), said its increase

provides shareholders with a "generous and certain return on their investment".

Tom Shockley, president and chief executive officer of CSW Enterprises, said: "In contrast, North West Water's cash and share offer contains a significant share element that may be adversely affected by a number of factors including a shortfall in the timing, scale and delivery benefits and the financial risk of diversifying into an activity of which North West Water has no direct experience." Mr Shockley said he was "disappointed" at having yet failed to persuade Norweb's board to recommend the new offer but added: "We will convince them."

The renewed offer came as the industry regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, issued a consultation document on

the Texas bid. Professor Littlechild said the bid raised some of the issues surrounding previous bids for regional electricity companies, including the holding of a public electricity supply licence by a subsidiary rather than a parent company.

He warned this raises concerns about the availability of resources, disposal of assets and the regulator's ability to obtain information.

Professor Littlechild would make licence amendments to deal with these concerns, which would involve the ring-fencing of the electricity supply and distribution operations from other parts of the parent group. He also said Texas should not retain Norweb's stake in the National Grid Company, which is due to be floated later this year.

Norweb's board said it would recommend neither offer because of their proximity in value. The company said it would make a recommendation "in due course in the light of North West Water's share price performance and the decisions of the various regulatory authorities". The bid by North West is unusual in that it is being examined by both Offer and the water watchdog, Ofwat.

North West Water declined to comment on the renewed offensive from Texas Energy and said that it would respond in due course.

The company is expected to consult with its big shareholders before deciding its next move but the consensus among City analysts is that the water group is determined to absorb Norweb in its drive to become a major force in the region.

## Euromoney lands profits blow

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

*Euromoney*, the glossy magazine that grew into a £300m media and conference group with 44 publications and 75 separate profit centres, shocked the market yesterday with a warning that profits in the year ending this month will be down about 25 per cent on the £24m it made in 1993/94.

Its activities mirror the confidence of the international banking and investment community, which has been shaken by the weakness of the in-

ternational bond and derivatives markets, the slump in emerging markets triggered by the collapse of the Mexican stock market last December, and the collapse of Barings Bank.

Patraig Fallon, the executive chairman, had warned at the half-way stage that margins were already under pressure but profits still rose 15 per cent to £10.4m. The outlook for bond markets has improved, the Japanese stock market has rallied, and the September issue of the magazine is fatter than ever, without any discounting of

advertising. Richard Ensor, the managing director, said:

Turnover will still have increased when the figures are reported to the Stock Exchange on 28 November, and profits in the core businesses are expected to be little changed on last year. Profits at Raven Fox, Petroleum Economist and Asia Law & Practice have held up well and Century House is expected to break even.

But profits at AIC, the organiser of conferences, seminars and training sessions, in which *Euromoney* has a 75 per cent

stake, have been almost wiped out, and restructuring costs of at least £2m are being charged to current year profits.

Profits have been concentrated in Western Europe and, to a lesser extent, in Latin America. The board expects to hold the final dividend at 29.5p, making 43.5p for the year. But analysis had been expecting profits of up to 27.5p, and the shares plunged 312p to 1083p, wiping 22 per cent off the overnight £300m market value of the company.

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## KPMG partners vote to create limited liability company

ROGER TRAPP

Partners' salaries and other financial details will be disclosed by the leading accountancy firm KPMG within three months as a result of its decision to create a limited company to carry out audits of publicly quoted and financially regulated clients.

The creation of KPMG Audit will start work on audits relating to financial years starting in 1996. But the firm intends to publish an annual report for the financial year to 30 September in January.

Mr Sharman and his colleagues have not yet decided which firm will audit the combined accounts of the partnership and the company, but concerns over possible conflicts of interest will probably rule out another member of the Big Six leading firms.

KPMG, which has been advised on the matter by Lazard Frères and the City law firm Slaughter & May, is convinced that its decision to protect itself from spiralling law suits by incorporating marks a turning point in the development of professional firms.

It also believes publishing full annual results will set a precedent if its rivals might be compelled to follow. The company says clients have been attracted by the idea of knowing as much about their accountants as they do about most other sup-

pliers.

Coopers & Lybrand, the country's largest, and Price Waterhouse are among the leading firms known to be examining the issue, though neither would draw on their plans.

John Roques, senior partner of Roche Ross, confirmed his firm's opposition to limiting

itself, and pointed to the endorsements of such well-known business figures as Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of NM Rothschild; NatWest Group chairman Lord Alexander and Cable & Wireless chairman Lord Young.

The firm stressed that the move did nothing to weaken its support for the campaign to reform the principle of joint and several liability, under which auditors can bear the total loss in a corporate collapse regardless of their degree of fault. A Law Commission feasibility study on this issue is expected by Christmas.

ability in this way. While pointing out that he and his colleagues would look at the issue carefully, he said he was concerned that the profession may be perceived as becoming a "low-cost, low-quality, low-risk supplier".

Mr Sharman, who will chair the 10-strong board of the new company, said the move was "a bold step for the accountancy profession, but one that we believe is necessary to protect and develop our business and our people in the next decade".

He added that clients had been overwhelmingly in favour

## Alliance suing former chief

DAVID HELLIER

Alliance Resources, the oil and gas company whose shares have been suspended on the London stock market at 4.5p since early last month, yesterday issued legal proceedings against its former chief executive, the Cork businessman John O'Brien.

The company, which is now being run by a three-man management committee, says it is suing its former head for damages for alleged fraudulent misrepresentations, fraud and/or deceit, breach of fiduciary duty as well as for reimbursement of certain sums received as a result of false declarations.

Mr O'Brien, who said yesterday he had "nothing to hide", is defending the writ and is opposing a Mareva injunction that was obtained by the company last month freezing its financial assets. The company's action relates to statements made in documents that accompanied a £7.3m money-lending exercise earlier this year.

Yesterday the company said the value of the Valentine Sugar Plantation, located 30 miles south of New Orleans, was less than had been described in the prospectus. The company took issue mainly with the prospects of a particular well, Well 14.

"As a result of investigations made by the company, it is now apparent that the true position in respect of this well has been concealed and misrepresented to the company by its former chief executive," the statement said yesterday.

The company said that con-

trary to indications given in the prospectus, it was now the company's understanding that the well, which was said to house a large gas discovery, was in fact never capable of commercial production and was finally plugged and abandoned in August this year.

As part of the lease there was a provision that in order to maintain its interest in the undeveloped field Alliance had an obligation to drill a well every 110 days. It is the company's contention that at the time of the money-raising, the company had not complied with this provision, but that Mr O'Brien had nonetheless indicated the company had been granted an extension on certain conditions.

The Serious Fraud Office was called in by the company last month and is still said to be involved in conducting its own inquiries into Mr O'Brien.

Mr O'Brien said he had not been approached by the fraud office. "But I would be delighted to meet with them at any time."

Alliance says the company is still viable and that its shares will be able to be traded again when full-year financial figures are released later this month.

Mr O'Brien said yesterday the company's decision to proceed with the drilling of the Valentine well (Valentine 14) was based upon a substantial number of independent reports, which included a process of continuing evaluation.

"The decision to plug and abandon Valentine 14 was not my decision and appears to contradict the technical reports," he said.



Colin Sharman: 'Bold step for accountancy profession'

## Manweb

### Shareholder information update

## Manweb's response to ScottishPower's final offer

### To hear your Board's advice call

**0800 55 66 22**  
(English language)

or

**0800 55 66 33**  
(Welsh language)

The Directors of Manweb plc are the persons responsible for this advertisement. Those Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. The Directors of Manweb plc accept responsibility accordingly.

# business

## Channel 5 licence set for this month

MATHEW HORSMAN



The licence to operate the new Channel 5 may be awarded as early as 19 October, following the regular monthly meeting of the board of the Independent Television Commission.

The 10 commissioners have already reviewed the four bids in detail, and last week asked staff to send final queries to the bidding groups. Channel 5 Broadcasting, led by Pearson and MAI, was asked about its programming budget, while Virgin TV, a consortium of Richard Branson's Virgin Group, Paramount Television, Associated Newspapers and HTV, was asked for assurances about its controversial retuning plan.

The retuning exercise – aimed at enabling viewers to receive the Channel 5 signal – could cost the winning applicant more than £100m. Three of the four bidding groups intend to visit every home in Channel 5 viewing areas, raising questions about security.

Virgin TV, which promises a youth-oriented programme schedule and a rich selection of made-for-TV movies, has opted for a selective retuning approach, and would encourage viewers to ring a free phone

number to arrange for a home visit by a retuner. BT has arranged to supply the telephone service. The ITC is believed to have received a letter from BT confirming its full backing for Virgin.

The evaluation process has generated an unprecedented amount of documentation at the ITC, as the commission endeavours to pre-empt any legal challenge to its decision.

All four bidders, including UKTV, the consortium led by CanWest, the Canadian broadcaster, which offered the highest bid at £36m, are believed to have passed basic quality thresholds. Virgin TV and Channel 5 Broadcasting both

## Falklands lures oilmen

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY

Excitement about one of the last – and potentially richest – unexplored regions for oil and gas in the world grew yesterday as 40 companies attended a presentation in London on the Falkland Islands' plans to explore offshore. Reports also emerged yesterday of plans to improve the rickety air communications between Chile and the remote archipelago.

In Stanley, the village capital of the Falklands, news of oil company interest came at the same time as earlier rumours of Argentina acquiring a direct interest in Falklands' waters were dispelled.

"People here think this could be the first day of a new era," said Patrick Watts of the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Service.

Councillor John Cheek, a

member of the Islands' Legislative Council, said that yesterday's turnout in London fulfilled expectations. A similar presentation will take place next Wednesday in Houston, Texas.

On offer are rights to drill in 12 blocks north of the Falkland Islands and seven to the south. The 19 areas comprise 44,000 square kilometres, which for decades have been thought to contain oil and natural gas in quantities larger than those presently being tapped by Chile and Argentina in their offshore waters nearby.

Applications have to be in by 2 July next year for exploration licences, which will be issued in September 1996. Interested companies, which may include Argentine firms provided they do not exercise majority control over any area or act as operator, may be given rights for three

initial periods of five, seven and 10 years, followed by a production phase of 35 years.

The Falkland Islands government has made clear that it will apply strict regulations to protect the environment.

Much-improved air links between Chile and the Falkland Islands could be inaugurated as early as next month. Aerovias DAP, a Chilean airline based in the southern port of Punta Arenas, which currently operates a Twin Otter on an uncomfortable five-hour flight without toilet facilities, is negotiating for a new aircraft, possibly a Fokker F 28 or BAe 148.

Such aircraft could fly from the Islands' Mount Pleasant airport to Punta Arenas in just over an hour and continue to Santiago, the Chilean capital, to connect with British Airways flights to London.

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## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

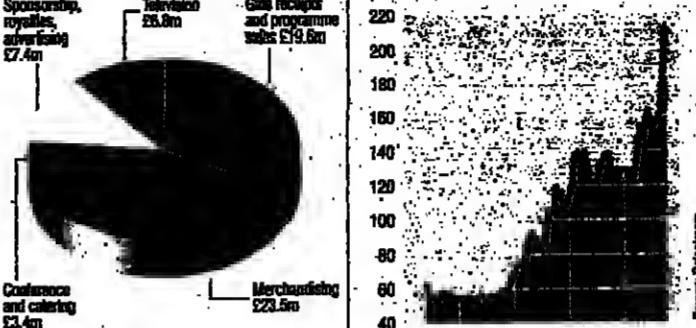
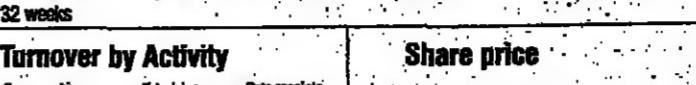
Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Man Utd scores heavily off-field

### Manchester United: at a glance

Market value: £124m, share price 204p

Trading record	1991*	1992	1993	1994	1995
Pre-tax profits (£m)	2.37	5.06	4.20	10.8	20.0
Dividends per share (pence) *32 weeks	0	8.6	3.9	42	4.5



took yesterday's profit warning badly, pushing the shares 312p lower to 1,035p.

The magazine publisher and its major shareholder Daily Mail and General Trust have made a fortune over the last 25 years out of bolding a reflecting mirror to the faces of the finance ministers and central bankers who hold centre stage at these meetings.

The number of pages in the September issue of the magazine is normally a fair reflection of the health of the international banking and investment community. But while this year's issue is as fat as ever, group margins have plainly been sharply squeezed in the second half. Full year figures are likely to be down about 25 per cent

COMPANY RESULTS				
	Turnover £	P/Tax £	EPS	Dividend
Arcadian Int'l (I)	9.4m (5.56m)	0.22m (0.07m)	0.1p (0.0p)	0.1p (nil)
BioCompatibility (I)	1.65m (0.42m)	-3.36m (-1.05m)	-0.3p (-3.19p)	nil (nil)
Bloomberg Publishing (I)	3.08m (3.13m)	-0.39m (-0.49m)	-4.55p (-6.02p)	0.68p (+)
James Halstead (F)	72.7m (69.1m)	10.3m (9.9m)	22.75p (22.5p)	8.5p (7.5p)
Notstock (I)	122.2m (97m)	14.1m (4.38m)	3.78p (1.13p)	0.75p (0.58p)
Manchester United (F)	60.6m (43.8m)	20m (10.8m)	23.4p (12.2p)	4.5p (4.2p)
US Holdings (F)	24.3m (28.7m)	-0.74m (2.1m)	-1.26p (3.43p)	1.58p (1.58p)
ShoeSmart (I)	35.2m (32.5m)	3.72m (4.11m)	5.22p (5.84p)	2.75p (2.75p)

## Compass clinches \$250m IBM deal

CLIFFORD GERMAN

Compass Group has snapped up a contract worth \$250m to supply restaurant food and vending machines for 100,000 IBM workers at 29 sites across the United States for the next five years.

Compass, which started as a buyout from Grand Met and came to the market less than seven years ago, is now the world's largest food-service company, supplying meals to staff restaurants, schools, hospitals and airports, stocking vending machines in workplaces and operating contracts for the likes of Burger King and Pizza Hut.

The deal is the biggest single food service contract ever awarded in the US and possi-

bly in the world. Compass claimed yesterday.

Mike Bailey, president and chief executive of Canteen Corporation, the US division, said the deal was part of a rapidly developing trend for big US companies to negotiate supply contracts with a single supplier, and would add more than 5 per cent a year to the group's turnover in the US, which accounts for about a quarter of the group's business worldwide.

Although not in quite the same league as the acquisition this summer of Eurest International, a leading hotel caterer, for almost £600m, the deal moved the shares up 17p to 44p yesterday, valuing the group at £1.36bn, up £50m on the day.

## Halstead buoyed by new vinyl floors

LUCY ROBERTS

A new generation of vinyl floor products and increased overseas sales helped motorcycle to commercial flooring company James Halstead continue its unbroken profit record.

The group overcame further pressure from raw material price increases to post a 4.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £10.32m for the year to end-October. Turnover rose from £69m to £72m. Vincent Clare, chairman, said a squeeze on margins in a competitive commercial flooring market had been offset by the upswing in export volume for its PVC flooring.

Export business grew by 19 per cent and accounts for nearly half of sales, with flooring accounting for 17 per cent.

Polyfloor Australia, a core business, increased sales by 30 per cent on the back of the new vinyl product range, an improved distribution network and sales outlets in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

The group's outdoor clothing division, Driza-Bone, put on sales in the US, UK, Germany and France and remained profitable despite a margin squeeze caused by cotton shortages. The core of the company's camping business also remained resilient, particularly in Holland, Belgium and France. But there was a mediocre performance in the UK, where competition from cheap package holidays hit sales. Earnings per share rose from 21.68p to 22.75p and the final dividend of 5.5 raised the total for the year to 8.5p.

## Lucy Roberts

## CITY DIARY



Rupert Pennant-Rea and Rosalind Gilmore, who were yesterday appointed as non-executive directors to the board of BAT Industries, have both been embroiled in recent controversy.

Pennant-Rea stepped down as deputy governor of the Bank of England after admitting to an extra-marital affair, whereas Gilmore resigned last week from Lloyds after less than a year as director of regulation.

A BAT spokesman told me: "As a tobacco group we're used to controversy, and unafraid of it. The two have got a big contribution to make in spite of what may or may not have happened in their recent careers. And they are especially valuable because they know a lot about regulation in the financial services area."

Kate Murphy, international bond marketer at Nomura, plans to plough off a roof to day to raise money for the Motivation charity. She will be joined by 200 other like-minded professional women from the City, including Stephanie Field, director of asset trading at Lazard Brothers; Julius Baer, senior

the specialist financing team within the corporate finance division at SBC Warburg, has joined solicitors Wilde Sapte to expand its major project practice. He will be reunited with Bruce Johnson, who joins from Linklaters & Paines when Clement-Davies worked before joining Warburg in 1993. While at SBC, Clement-Davies worked on the London & Continental Railways consortium, short-listed for the £2.7bn Channel Tunnel rail link project, and the modernisation of Russia's air traffic control system.

Abbey National, the titleholder, will face stiff competition from the likes of KPMG, Cazenove, Midland and National Westminster bank when they meet at next month's City Monopoly challenge. The event, which aims to raise money for Children with Leukaemia, is appealing for more teams.

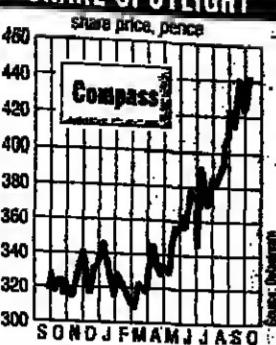


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# market report/shares

**DATA BANK**

FT-SE 100	3524.2	+4.0
FT-SE 250	3968.6	+9.7
FT-SE 350	1761.5	+2.6
SEAC VOLUME	711.5 shares	
	29,776 bargains	
Gilt Index	93.25	unchanged

**SHARE SPOTLIGHT**


## BAe advances further as GEC bid rumours persist

Rumours that GEC, headed by Lord Weinstock, will make a bid for British Aerospace refuse to die down. Shares in BAe rose 9.5p to 74p yesterday, which compares with the 52p they traded at when GEC outbid the company for VSEL, the submarine maker, in June.

Analysts reckon GEC would have to bid upwards of 900p a share to win control of BAe, a company it has tried to court in the past. At the current price, BAe is worth almost £3.2bn.

A bid for BAe is seen by some as one of the prime reasons why Lord Weinstock continues in his job at the age of 71, several years beyond the normal retirement age. Shares in GEC also did well yesterday, rising 12p to 329p – only 9p shy of this year's high.

Trading in GEC shares was higher than normal at 24.5 million, although part of the total was due to a cross of 3.6 million.

The performance of GEC and BAe yesterday contrasted with most of the other leading 100 shares, which only just managed to remain in positive territory by the close.

Wall Street was largely to blame for the lacklustre session. A 28-point overnight drop on the Dow Jones Index unsettled early dealings, and a softer opening during afternoon dealing yesterday in London put the brakes on most of the leaders.

The FT-SE 100 share index closed just 4 points higher at 3,524.2, having been 11.4 better on lower than expected consumer credit figures before Wall Street kicked in. Volume trading totalled 711 million.

**British Airways** was by far the best performer among the FT-SE 100 constituents, closing 20p higher at 472p. Volume trading was heavy, with more than 11 million going through the books.

The rise was in response to USAir, the 25 per cent owned associate, announcing it was in talks with American Airlines and United Airlines. Analysts said a full bid for USAir may have to be pitched around \$20 a share, a big premium to the recent \$11.50 the shares have been trading at.

**British Airways** is seen as being in control of what may become a bidding war between American and United. "Assets don't really matter, it's the strategic value," said Richard Hannah, analyst at UBS.

Most of the day's business was governed by a handful of special situations, and the electricity sector was unusually quiet, despite Texas Energy Partners increasing the bid stakes for Norwest.

The Americans' higher offer is worth £10.85 cash a share, which is 10p more than the pure money put on the table by North West Water but less than the rival suitor's cash and paper terms.

Norwest finished 5p better at £10.87 and North West eased 1p to 59p. Few dealers believe that the bidding war is yet over, and expect north West to up the ante once again.

With the electricity sector fast diminishing in numbers, eyes are turning towards water shares for the next round of

**MARKET REPORT**

JOHN SHEPHERD

meg-bids. Northumbrian Water rose a further 20p to £10.33 with many predicting bid action soon from Lyonnais des Eaux-Dumez.

**Serious** Trent, also widely tipped as a takeover target, advanced 10p to 659p and Amgen gained 4p to 593p.

Biggest bowler of the day was from Enronomics, which crashed 312p to £10.83 on a profits warning. A major shareholder, Daily Mail & General Trust, fell 20p to £12.65p.

First Choice, the UK's third largest tour operator, remained in the doldrums, losing another 5p to close at a year's low of 65p – just 5p above the rights issue price announced on Monday.

Among the main winners was **Compass**, the catering group, which increased 17p to close only 1p below this year's high at 441p. The uplift was generated by news of a £250m contract to provide catering

services to IBM. Leisure analysts said the five-year contract, won by its recently acquired US subsidiary, Canteen Corporation, could add up to £2m a year in pre-tax profits.

P&O was a firm market, rising 2p to 490p ahead of tomorrow's presentation to analysts. There is some faint speculation that P&O will move soon to the Canard Line from the troubled Trafalgar House, a penny better at 28.25p.

News of a boardroom reshuffle lifted **Granada** 7p to 647p, although the rest of the leisure sector looked flat.

**Electrophoresis** had a sparkling debut on the Aim market. Shares, which were trading at 140p on the 4.2 facility last week, finished at 160p.

Pittard finished 1p better at 45p on talk of a pending announcement about property disposals.

**TAKING STOCK**

□ There was strong speculation of a imminent takeover bid for Fine Decor, the wallpaper company. Shares rose 8p to 169p. Favoured suitor is Vynura, steady at 129p, although there was some talk of a bid being made from Canada. Fine Decor shares have been a disappointing performer since they joined the market at 210p in 1993. The company recently warned it was being squeezed by higher raw material prices and lack-lustre consumer demand.

□ Dealings in Bullers shares were suspended at 1.25p pending clarification of the giftware and media company's financial position. Bullers lost £394,000 last year, and figures for the first half of 1995 have yet to be released. There are rumours that Derek Holmes, the broker, is about to reverse a profitable Scandinavian media company into Bullers.

**SHARE PRICE DATA**

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (PE) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights x Ex-dividend x Listed Securities Market x Suspended Source: Firstcall

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Market Leaders: TOP 20 VOLUMES

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
General Elect	27,000	Vodafone	13,000	Midland Bank	6,700
Baillie Gifford	20,000	Harrison	13,000	Standard Life	6,500
British Gas	18,000	Shell Transport	13,000	Barclays	5,600
BP	14,000	Cable & Wireless	9,200	ASDA Group	5,000
British Airways	13,000	Guard Me	8,500	PowerGen	5,200

**FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR**

Open	3515.1 down 5.1	11.00 3524.9 up 4.7	14.00 3528.0 up 7.8
09.09 3521.8 up 1.8	12.00 3527.1 up 5.9	15.00 3527.4 up 7.2	
10.00 3530.2 up 10.0	13.00 3528.2 up 8.0	16.00 3526.8 up 6.7	
		Close 3524.2 up 4.0	

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First



## THE CECIL/SHEIKH MOHAMMED SPLIT: End of an era for a yard once tied to triumphs in maroon and white

# Flag of uncertainty over Warren Place

When Sheikh Mohammed began to send his most promising horses to winter in Dubai, his endeavour provoked enough mistaken predictions to keep a bookmaker in profit for years. Some will it off as a rich man's folly, others, just as misguided, predicted that Newmarket would soon be a ghost town. No one, though, would have thought that the Dubai experiment would precipitate an end to the 14-year relationship between the Sheikh, the world's leading racehorse owner, and Henry Cecil, Britain's pre-eminent trainer for two decades.

For Cecil, it is not just a question of numbers, even though he has lost 40 horses, 20 per cent of his string. After all, there will be no shortage of owners who wish to stable their horses at Warren Place. Future biographers, though, will see the dissolution of his partnership with the Sheikh as a defining moment in his far brilliant career.

It marks, quite simply, the end of an era. During the glory days at Warren Place, the seasons in the 1980s and early 1990s when the family standard which files to mark a Group One success barely left the flagpole, there were several key figures at Cecil's yard. Sheikh

**GREG WOOD** on Henry Cecil's career and prospects after losing a fifth of his string

Mohammed supplied the ammunition — Oh So Sharp, Dimimundo, Indian Summer, Old Vic, Belmez, Julie, his first wife, and Paddy Rudkin, an exceptional head lad, played vital roles in the preparation and Steve Cauchi punched them home with panache. The Sheikh is the last of them to leave. The question now is whether he has also turned out the lights.

With Khalid Abdullah still strongly represented, and continued support too from the old-

### CECIL FACTFILE

Name: Henry Richard Amhurst Cecil  
Born: 11 January 1943  
Married: 18 October 1966 to Julie (two children, Katie and Noel); 14 February 1991 to Natalie (one son, Jake).  
First trainer: Eborace 1968 (assistant trainer to Sir Cecil Boyd-Rochfort 1964-1969).  
Champion trainer: 1978, 1979, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1993.  
Winning total: 1969 to 1995: 27, 35, 53, 51, 39, 50, 82, 52, 74, 109, 128, 84, 107, 111, 92, 106, 132, 115, 180, 112, 117, 111, 118, 109, 94, 76, 65 (to date).  
Big winners trained for Sheikh Mohammed: Oh So Sharp (1985 1,000 Guineas, Oaks; St Leger); Dimimundo (1988 Oaks, Irish Derby, Aintree Oaks); Old Vic (1989 Prix du Jockey Club, Irish Derby); Alydar (1989 Irish Oaks); Indian Summer (1989 Prix de Diane); Champion Stakes (1989 Prix des Palmes); Sales (1988 Prix de la Forêt); Belmez (1990 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes); Kensing Cousin (1994 Coronation Stakes); King's Theatre (1994 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes).

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**2.30** Akli (nb)  
**3.00** Ansellman  
**3.35** Sweet Mignonette

GOING: Good.  
STALLS: 5c. If Tt — stands side; round course — inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None for 5 & 6.

L-t-hand, U-shaped course. Flat and ideal for the powerful gallopers.

Course: 8 fms S of city on A1030. York station 1m. ADDRESSES: County Stand 5.1.8 (16-18, 2nd floor); 2.10. Tattersalls Club 2nd flr, Ring 54 (01904 522); Course 4.2.60 (01904 5.1.3). Under-18s free all racecourses. CAR PARK: £2, remainder free.

### SIS

All races

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cecil — 28 winners from 108 runners; a success ratio of 25.9% and a profit to 4.1 level added of £1,045. M Roche — 24 winners, 17% runs, 17.5% profit; R Hanson — 20 winners, 180 runners, 10.5%. — L-C — 16 winners, 30% runs, 20.0% profit.

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: Paul Edmond — 44 winners, 227 rides, 19.4%, 45.08%; L Darton — 35 winners, 197 rides, 17.8%, +5.1%; M Roberts — 35 winners, 207 rides, 10.1%, +3.0%; G Vass — 33 winners, 227 rides, 14.3%, +5.6%; D Mullins — 33 winners, 207 rides, 10.1%, +3.0%.

■ LEADING TRAINER'S TEAM: H Cecil (23) — 23 winners, 232 rides, 19.3%, +5.08%; R Hanson (22) — 22 winners, 222 rides, 19.3%, +5.08%.

■ WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Yorkshire Campaigner (4.05) sent 271 miles by M Pipe from Northallerton; Devout (Classique Elegance (4.05) sent 265 miles by L Hester from Argentine Park, W Selby; Nightingale (3.00) sent 255 miles by J Denyer from Arundel, W Sussex.

■ LEADERSHIP: 2.00: Ramsey Hope (3.00) sent 255 miles by L Hester from Argentine Park, W Selby; Nightingale (3.00) sent 255 miles by J Denyer from Arundel, W Sussex.

■ LEOPARDSTOWN NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2.10 6 Penalties Value £5,472

**1** 22310 NARAHM (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 9.7 — R Hills 20  
**2** 24214 DASHING BLUE (GB) 0.9 (4) [Mike Duncan] A1 8 Helling 8.3 — L Dettori 5  
**3** 14110 NO MONEY ROTS (GB) 0.9 (4) [The Monkey Racing Co] 8 Helling 8.1 — J Vass 20  
**4** 23030 DASHING DOLPHIN (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 9.7 — R Hills 20  
**5** 610 JEWELLERY (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 9.7 — R Hills 20  
**6** 24210 PHARMACY (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 7.7 — R Hills 20  
**7** 402012 ORELLEAD (GB) 0.9 (4) [Preston] 8 Helling 8.6 — L Dettori 10  
**8** 3322 PILGRIM HILLS (GB) 0.9 (4) [J Stedman] J Dunting 8.4 — M Roberts 22  
**9** 002124 DASHING DOLPHIN (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 8.3 — R Hills 20  
**10** 33224 DANIELS FIRST (GB) 0.9 (4) [R Stedman] 8 H Hayday 7.2 — R Hills 20  
**11** 132014 SHADWELL (GB) 0.9 (4) [David Clark] 8 H Hayday 7.1 — L Dettori 14  
**12** 344023 CINNAMON INVESTOR (GB) 0.9 (4) [Dunham] 8 H Hayday 7.1 — L Dettori 14  
**13** 402032 OH NOHARU (GB) 0.9 (4) [Preston] 8 Helling 7.0 — M Roberts 22  
**14** 6121 NARAHM (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 7.0 — R Hills 20

BETTING: 2-1 Dashing Blue, 6-1 Nightingale, 7-1 Delling First, 8-1 No Money Rots, 10-8 Daniele First, 12-1 Daniele First, 13-2 others.

GOING: Good.

STALLS: 5c. If Tt — stands side; round course — inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Flat and ideal for the powerful gallopers.

Course: 8 fms S of city on A1030. York station 1m. ADDRESSES: County Stand 5.1.8 (16-18, 2nd floor); 2.10. Tattersalls Club 2nd flr, Ring 54 (01904 522); Course 4.2.60 (01904 5.1.3). Under-18s free all racecourses. CAR PARK: £2, remainder free.

FORM GUIDE

The draw is something of an improvement on last year's racecourse, but the right-hand turn will be the highlight. The 10-year-old All-American has done nothing wrong in three starts since returning from a three-month break and after running second to Double Matt in a Listed race, she won a maiden over the stiff at Beverley (5f Cottage sprint) before a solid handful effort when fourth to Square Connection (5f Cottage sprint). She is a good horse and the surface should suit her well. Royal Donne is a fine race and was performed by Michael Roberts who had been on a winner at Lingfield earlier that afternoon. Royal Donne will be hoping the ground stays good for Royal Donne who appears best on the faster types of surface. Midwinter Miss Chester where he ran out a comfortable winner of a handicap here last year, looks to be the best chance. He is odds-on and has the right-hand turn to his advantage. Royal Donne is a good horse and the surface should suit him well. He should go well, having had a break from 3 July to the end of August. No monkey business has won three out of five and looks a valuable seller back to form. He took a few steps back at Newmarket after a hard race but is back to form again and is in the market for a win. Selections: Royal Donne.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cecil — 28 winners from 108 runners; a success ratio of 25.9% and a profit to 4.1 level added of £1,045. M Roche — 24 winners, 17% runs, 17.5% profit; R Hanson — 20 winners, 180 runners, 10.5%. — L-C — 16 winners, 30% runs, 20.0% profit.

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■ LEADING TRAINER'S TEAM: H Cecil (23) — 23 winners, 232 rides, 19.3%, +5.08%; R Hanson (22) — 22 winners, 222 rides, 19.3%, +5.08%.

■ WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Yorkshire Campaigner (4.05) sent 271 miles by M Pipe from Northallerton; Devout (Classique Elegance (4.05) sent 265 miles by L Hester from Argentine Park, W Selby; Nightingale (3.00) sent 255 miles by J Denyer from Arundel, W Sussex.

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**6** 24210 PHARMACY (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 7.7 — R Hills 20  
**7** 402012 ORELLEAD (GB) 0.9 (4) [Preston] 8 Helling 8.6 — L Dettori 10  
**8** 3322 PILGRIM HILLS (GB) 0.9 (4) [J Stedman] J Dunting 8.4 — M Roberts 22  
**9** 002124 DASHING DOLPHIN (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 8.3 — R Hills 20  
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**13** 402032 OH NOHARU (GB) 0.9 (4) [Preston] 8 Helling 7.0 — M Roberts 22  
**14** 6121 NARAHM (GB) 0.9 (4) [John Mollard] 8 H Hayday 7.0 — R Hills 20

BETTING: 2-1 Dashing Blue, 6-1 Nightingale, 7-1 Delling First, 8-1 No Money Rots, 10-8 Daniele First, 12-1 Daniele First, 13-2 others.

GOING: Good.

STALLS: 5c. If Tt — stands side; round course — inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Flat and ideal for the powerful gallopers.

Course: 8 fms S of city on A1030. York station 1m. ADDRESSES: County Stand 5.1.8 (16-18, 2nd floor); 2.10. Tattersalls Club 2nd flr, Ring 54 (01904 522); Course 4.2.60 (01904 5.1.3). Under-18s free all racecourses. CAR PARK: £2, remainder free.

FORM GUIDE

The freshened up CLOUDED ELEGANCE looks interesting. Lady Horries had horses run well at Redcar and Wetherby yesterday and she got a win out of Clouded Elegance on her first run for her at Nottingham in May. Formerly with Ian Bishop, Clouded Elegance showed even better form when fourth in a Listed race in June and he has been in touch with Ian Bishop since then. Lady Horries came back to her best when winning an apprentice event at Pontefract last time and she appears a possibility so bound to be a popular choice. A versatile sort who has form and was sixth in last year's Cambridgeshire, she rates a big threat if she gets a good enough ground. Devilish Donkey (4.05) has had a good start to the season and seems fairly weighted. He should stay well, having had a break from 3 July to the end of August. No monkey business has won three out of five and looks a valuable seller back to form. He took a few steps back at Newmarket after a hard race but is back to form again and is in the market for a win. Selections: Clouded Elegance.

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**2** 005209 NARAHM (GB) 0.9 (4) [Mike Duncan] A1 8 Helling 8.3 — L Dettori 5  
**3** 14110 NO MONEY ROTS (GB) 0.9 (4) [The Monkey Racing Co] 8 H Hayday 8.1 — J Vass 20  
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BETTING: 2-1 Dashing Blue, 6-1 Nightingale, 7-1 Delling First, 8-1 No Money Rots, 10-8 Daniele First, 12-1 Daniele First, 13-2 others.

## sport

# The last bastions of amateurism

After rugby union's switch to the professional ranks, you might think no one competes at the highest level purely for the love of their sport. Actually, they do. Mike Rowbottom reports

**A**s rugby union sets off in earnest down the road marked "professionalism", the reverberations of its decision are passing through the main body of British sport. It is, in the main, an amateur body.

For a huge number of sportsmen and women in this country, turning professional is simply not an option - the money is not there. Unlike football, athletics, cricket or rugby, their sports do not regularly attract large crowds, and so do not attract large television contracts. Or maybe it is the other way round.

Either way, most are caught in a familiar situation - the phrase "Catch-22" has wide-spread currency in British sporting circles. By no means everyone would embrace professionalism were it to become viable. Many are happy for it to remain the Road Not Taken.

Rowing, despite its dalliance with professional racing a century ago, remains one of Britain's most rigorously amateur sports. Even Stephen Redgrave, four times an Olympic champion, has effectively to earn his living with appearances for his sponsors in insurance and sportswear.

If life is hard for Redgrave, it is harder still for Guin Batten. At 28, she has established herself as Britain's leading single sculler. Despite being a qualified exercise physiologist, she has chosen to devote herself to training as she prepares for next year's Olympics. Thus she struggles by



It must be love: the dedicated few who relish rowing as 'one of the few remaining amateur sports in Britain' devote themselves to practice on the Thames near Putney Bridge. Britain's leading women's single sculler, Guin Batten (inset), says: 'Hardship makes me stronger in a perverse sort of way'

Photograph: Peter Jay

with a little help from her friends, family and a £2,000 grant from the Sports Aid Foundation. She estimates it costs £9,000 a year to her to row, quite apart from living costs. But she is not - she really is not - complaining.

"If, out of the blue, all our events were being televised and my club was offering to pay me to row, I think I would be able to handle it," she said. "But it would remove something."

"Rowing is the sort of sport where people say 'God everyone else, we're going to work and we

are going to achieve results.' They put their heads down and become an insular group."

"I'm not sure you could do that so successfully if you were being pulled in different directions, going to meetings, signing autographs. The other thing to consider is that if you are paid, and life becomes more comfortable, do you get softer? Does it mean as much to you?"

"When it really hurts coming into the last part of a race, I never think about the money I might earn. I just think

I've put so much into this, this is for me. I definitely feel that hardship makes me stronger in a perverse sort of way."

Jim Bichard, who coaches Batten and others at Thames Rowing Club, also identifies a "masochistic" streak to many rowers. "If we ever went professional it would really split the attitudes within the sport," he said. "It would cause a lot of hassle. I don't think it would make the sport any more competitive. Our rowers don't train any less hard than Linford Christie. A lot

of people in rowing like to think of it as one of the few remaining amateur sports in Britain."

That kind of attitude is not confined to rowing. Bernie Cotton, who played hockey for England for 10 years and went on to manage them between 1988 and 1992, recalls the feeling of satisfaction he and his team-mates felt when returning from major championships.

"We might not have won, but we always had a feeling that we were the best of the truly amateur sides. We were proud

about that. And I think people in the game still are."

Cotton now coaches his local side, Bishop's Stortford. "Our players arrive in the evenings to play in the sport. Cotton estimates that hockey was five years ahead of rugby union at that point. Remember this was before rugby established the Courage League structure and right at the start of the Geoff Cooke-Will Caring transformation of England's fortunes. But that's what it's about."

There is something to be cherished about such a sporting life. Not that Cotton decries what attempts there have been

to transform hockey's status. In 1988, after Sean Kerley and Co had won the Olympic title for Britain, large sums of money began to flow into the sport. Cotton estimates that hockey was five years ahead of rugby union at that point. Remember this was before rugby established the Courage League structure and right at the start of the Geoff Cooke-Will Caring transformation of England's fortunes. But that's what it's about."

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tires such as Twickenham boasted under the enterprise.

Like rowing and hockey, swimming has also raised its national profile on occasions, thanks to the achievements of such as David Wilkie, Duncan Goodhew, Adrian Moorhouse and Sharon Davies. But it also labour under the handicap of not being a great spectator sport and only the elite will be able to make some kind of a living in or through the sport.

"To be honest, I don't see swimming changing," said Paul Bush, director of swimming at the Amateur Swimming Association. "We are a relatively open sport, and I think direct payments will replace trust funds for competitors by the year 2000. But I don't think we would ever attract sufficient sponsorship and media attention to do what rugby is doing."

Mike Smith, chief executive of Basketball League Ltd, the company constituted by the 13 premier league clubs, identifies a growing challenge in keeping the balance between unpaid officials and paid competitors.

Earlier this year, Smith visited the United States, where he witnessed some of the changes made in the National Basketball Association, where there had been widespread concern over increasing levels of aggression and verbal abuse among players. There has been a toughening up of the rules in the US, and an increase from two to three officials in charge of games. "Maybe this is the kind of thing 'amateur sports' need to be addressing themselves to," Smith said.

Smith, however, believes the distinction between professional and amateur does not apply in his particular sport because of the way it evolved in this country in the early 1970s, when imported US players were paid and co-existed happily with unpaid home-grown team-mates. "The notion of professional and amateur is really an irrelevancy in basketball," Smith said. In that respect, it is more open than most British sports.

## By John Cassy

### THE GAIN GAME: SPORT-BY-SPORT GUIDE TO THE REWARDS AVAILABLE TO BRITONS AT PLAY

#### Angling

Has a relaxed view on the subject of amateurism. Anglers in competitions tend to be fishing for prize-money and the underlying philosophy is: "if you can earn cash from angling, then good luck."

#### Athletics

Following years as an amateur sport, athletes can now receive money direct. The International Amateur Athletic Federation rules changed two years ago; previously money had to be paid into trust funds. Athletes can apply for a direct payment card which will authorise them to receive funds directly. The granting of cards is conditional upon full and complete compliance by the athlete and his representative with IAAF rules and regulations. The top athletes can earn £10,000-£50,000 per meet.

#### Badminton

There is no real differentiation, with professionals competing roundly alongside amateurs.

#### Basketball

Basketball is an entirely open game, although in Britain there is a salary cap to maintain competitiveness. The majority of British club sides consist of a mixture of professionals, students and amateurs. The annual team salary limit is £100,000. The policy has been successful, maintaining healthy crowd attendances and preventing domination by one club, as happened with Crystal Palace in the 1970s and Kingston in the 80s. Individual earnings range from £20,000 for part-timers to about £200,000 for top pros.

#### Boxing

A boxer loses his amateur status when he signs to a professional manager, which usually happens when the boxer has been hand-picked. Once the British Board of Boxing Control clears the application for the two to team up, the boxer is deemed professional. New pros can expect as little as £250 per fight. The sky is the limit for the heavyweight champion of the world.

#### Canoeing

The International Canoeing Federation scrapped the sport's amateur status at their annual congress last year. Any sponsor must be registered with the governing body.

#### Cycling

By the end of 1996 amateurism in cycling will be entirely dead. The track side of the sport is already open and in next year's Olympics there will be an open road race featuring the world's top professional cyclists as well as amateurs. Lesser-known pros earn around £10,000 a year, but the sport's biggest names can earn £2m-£3m during their careers

#### Golf

A clear distinction remains between amateur and professional. For a golfer to retain his amateur status he must not be compensated for teaching or playing, must not play for prize-money and must not directly or indirectly promote products or appear in advertisements. Celebrity pro-am tournaments are

#### Hockey

Hockey also remains an amateur sport, defining an amateur as a person who plays, umpires etc by choice or as a diversion for his physical or moral well-being and who does not directly or indirectly derive any profit or financial benefit therefrom. Payments for other activities may be made but they must go into a special fund. If a player is found to have breached amateur status then suspension is the usual result. Players cannot appear in sponsorship deals unless the association is bound into a specific contract with the manufacturer, and must not contract sponsorship for himself.

#### Gymnastics

Gymnastics remains an entirely amateur sport. Any promotional payments to gymnasts must be cleared with the British Amateur Gymnastics Association first and then passed straight to the association. The cash is then put into a trust fund. No advertising is allowed to be displayed on clothing or equipment unless it is the approved trademark of the manufacturer. The rules are currently being revised for 1996.

#### Judo

Top fighters are full-time professionals, others maintain jobs. The top fighters, training full-time, are funded by sponsorship. The very

best are on grants of about £18,000 pa. Lesser-known fighters compete for grants amounting to about £250 a quarter.

#### Rowing

Rowing is another sport proud to retain its amateur traditions. An amateur may not receive any contributions towards his expenses either in training or in competition except from the funds of the Amateur Rowing Association, or funds administered by the Association or the club which he represents. A rower may, however, accept free travel and accommodation provided that the club to which he belongs informs the Association, and he satisfies himself that acceptance will not be made the subject of an advertisement. Cash prizes go to the Association and the money is either used for expenses or held until retirement.

#### Show Jumping

The sport will be entirely open from January 1996. There has always been a distinction between amateur "competitors" and professional "riders" but from next year all riders will simply be competitors. Professionals will be able to take part in the Olympics where previously they have been excluded. The only restrictions placed on riders are that they are all required to hold a competition licence and they have to notify the British Equestrian Federation of any commercial sponsors they may have secured.

#### Skiing

Skiing in Britain remains an amateur sport with sponsorship money going through the Ski Federation. Expenses can be reclaimed through the competitor's fund in a similar way to gymnastics.

#### Squash

Squash has been an entirely open game since 1979. The top 50 players tend to be full-time pros with the rest combining jobs and playing. The top three players in Britain can earn up to £30,000 a year.

#### Swimming

The word amateur has been dropped from the sport. Swimmers can receive prize-money but it must go through a swimming fund administered by the Amateur Swimming Association. Accounts are held for each swimmer who can claim expenses once a month. The sport's biggest names can choose to create trust funds and invest some of their earnings. Although the world governing body, FINA, decided about 18 months ago that swimmers can be paid money direct, the ASA has chosen not to change its rules. The leading swimmers in the country can earn £15,000-£20,000 in a year.

#### Tennis

The decision to make the 1968 Wimbledon tournament an open event is seen as the crucial move towards widespread professional tennis. Tennis has always had professional coaches but prior to the 1968 decision the majority of professionals were found in the pro circus that was played mainly in the United States. The first professional tournament here was launched in Bournemouth in 1968. The only place where amateurs remain in any number in tennis today is in the US college system, and the majority of them progress quickly to professionals. The earnings can be spectacular. In 1994, 13 professionals earned over \$1m (£650,000) each from prize money. Pete Sampras topped the list with \$3.6m. All of the top 160 earned more than \$100,000 in prize-money last year.

#### Volleyball

Volleyball in Britain remains a totally amateur sport, but on the Continent, where the game has a much higher profile, players are routinely given jobs with the major companies who sponsor and run the individual volleyball clubs. Within the game there is no objection or opposition to professionalism.

## How the big four sports handle professionalism

### Football

**Summary:** Amateur and professional distinction abolished 1963.

**Potted history:** The game was fully governed well before the concept of amateurism entered sport, but the influence of the public schools meant that the amateur-professional divide was strengthened. As a result amateurs and professionals occupied different dressing-rooms, entered the ground through different gates and ate in different areas despite playing in the same teams. Changes began to take place after the Second World War and the distinction became increasingly blurred with players securing sponsors and the like. In 1963 the MCC, then the game's governing body, decided that the distinction should be done away with and all players were referred to simply as "Cricketers". The first one-day game followed later that year.

**Earnings:** In 1995 a capped player would earn, on average, about £14,500; this figure will rise to about £18,000 next year. For the rest of the Test-playing nations the situation is slightly less clear-cut. In Australia in 1977 the advent of World Series Cricket was the big step towards professionalism. In the 1977 Centenary Test each Australian player received A\$2,000; by 1995 that figure had risen to around A\$6,500 (£3,250) per Test. While the West Indies have had a fully fledged professional side for the past 20 years or so the majority of the other Test-playing nations are at a half-way house stage. While their leading players are full-time professionals reaping the financial rewards of English professional county cricket, the other Test players and club players receive very little in the way of remuneration.

**Cricket**

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### Rugby Union

**Summary:** The game is to be open to all, save for the introduction of new laws regarding player payments.

**Potted history:** Amateurs were permitted to play in the 19th century, but the introduction of professional players in the 1920s led to the formation of the Professional Footballers' Association.

**Earnings:** In 1995 a capped player would earn, on average, about £14,500; this figure will rise to about £18,000 next year. For the rest of the Test-playing nations the situation is slightly less clear-cut. In Australia in 1977 the advent of World Series Cricket was the big step towards professionalism. In the 1977 Centenary Test each Australian player received A\$2,000; by 1995 that figure had risen to around A\$6,500 (£3,250) per Test. While the West Indies have had a fully fledged professional side for the past 20 years or so the majority of the other Test-playing nations are at a half-way house stage. While their leading players are full-time professionals reaping the financial rewards of English professional county cricket, the other Test players and club players receive very little in the way of remuneration.

**Speedway**

**Summary:** The game is to be open to all, save for the introduction of new laws regarding player payments.

**Potted history:** Amateurs were permitted to play in the 19th century, but the introduction of professional players in the 1920s led to the formation of the Professional Footballers' Association.

**Earnings:** In 1995 a capped player would earn, on average, about £14,500; this figure will rise to about £18,000 next year. For the rest of the Test-playing nations the situation is slightly less clear-cut. In Australia in 1977 the advent of World Series Cricket was the big step towards professionalism. In the 1977 Centenary Test each Australian player received A\$2,000; by 1995 that figure had risen to around A\$6,500 (£3,250) per Test. While the West Indies have had a fully fledged professional side for the past 20 years or so the majority of the other Test-playing nations are at a half-way house stage. While their leading players are full-time professionals reaping the financial rewards of English professional county cricket, the other Test players and club players receive very little in the way of remuneration.

### Rugby League

**Summary:** Rugby League broke from the Rugby Football Union in 1895 to go professional.

**Potted history:** The game first allowed professionals to play in 1885, although there remained a distinction between professionals and amateurs. This was abolished in 1974.

**Earnings:** In 1995 a capped player would earn, on average, about £14,500; this figure will rise to about £18,000 next year. For the rest of the Test-playing nations the situation is slightly less clear-cut. In Australia in 1977 the advent of World Series Cricket was the big step towards professionalism. In the 1977 Centenary Test each Australian player received A\$2,000; by 1995 that figure had risen to around A\$6,500 (£3,250) per Test. While the West Indies have had a fully fledged professional side for the past 20 years or so the majority of the other Test-playing nations are at a half-way house stage. While their leading players are full-time professionals reaping the financial rewards of English professional county cricket, the other Test players and club players receive very little in the way of remuneration.

# sport

## Countries in line for rich Cup pickings

### Rugby Union

STEVE BAILE

Countries qualifying for future World Cups, including the next one hosted by Wales in 1999, will almost certainly be paid a participation fee in accordance with rugby union's new professional dispensation.

This could amount to as much as £1m each though in floating the idea at a Rugby World Cup Ltd briefing in London yesterday, the RWC director Marcel Martin named no figures and merely speculated that it could be a percentage of gate-takings. For this year's tournament, participating unions each received £35,000 towards kit-out.

Martin advised that none of the 1995 profit of £2.1m would be diverted to Max Brito, the Ivoirian player who was paralysed in the pool match against Tonga, over and above the insurance already in place. Nor would there be any special provision to safeguard the future of the game in the Pacific islands, which have been abandoned by the southern-hemisphere unions' £360m television deal with Rupert Murdoch.

Qualification for the 1997 World Cup Sevens in Hong Kong will take place at tournaments in Portugal, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay, with Ireland hoping to be among the eight who go through from Lisbon, Scotland and Wales among the eight from Dubai and France among the five from Punta del Este.

Along with the hosts, England and Australia, champions and runners-up in 1993, are pre-qualified, a status they do not enjoy for the 1999 World Cup, though neither they nor the Scots and Irish have to undertake more than two qualifying fixtures.

Robert Jones, favourite scrum-half of everyone except the Welsh selectors, was yesterday acknowledged by his coach at Swansea, Mike Ruddock, to be a target for Rob Andrew, Newcastle's new development director. If Garath Archer, a promising but unproven lock, was worth £40,000 a year, even a disillusioned Jones could command a handsome salary.

Gerrick Morgan, the Wallaby lock who won the World Cup by signing for rugby league, will become the first to take advantage of the free gangway between the codes when he returns to rugby union. Morgan had been well-regarded in union but was a flop with South Queensland Crushers.

Morgan's comeback emphasises the absurdity of the RFU's desire to maintain a stand-down period from code to code. Dave Hinchliffe, MP for Wakefield, and the Parliamentary Rugby League Group, are to discuss the issue with the Minister for Sport later this month.

# Risk lures Lewis to Manhattan

## Boxing

KEN JONES  
reports from New York

As Lennox Lewis and Tommy Morrison were violently defeated when defending versions of the heavyweight championship, their presence this week on an aircraft carrier moored off Manhattan prompted a notable cynic to suggest that the idea was to have them hitting the deck together.

This corresponded loosely with what the promoters of next Saturday's bout between Lewis and Morrison at the Convention Centre in Atlantic City had in mind when parading the contestants between an array of obsolete airborne weaponry. Bombs away and all that stuff.

Shortly, either Lewis or Morrison will become a museum piece in the heavyweight division. A corny sales pitch was not entirely misplaced, because there is enough on the records of both men to indicate that that the outcome of their encounter will not be determined by official calculation. Morrison comes with a big left hook but a suspect chin. About Lewis there is the question of whether a knock-out by Oliver McCall last year when defending the World Boxing Council championship has left him gun-shy.

No wonder that few in the boxing fraternity expect the contest to last more than a few rounds. It was supposed to happen two years ago when Lewis and Morrison were respectively the WBC and World Boxing Organisation title-holders, but Michael Bent ruined the script by blowing Morrison away in one round. Lewis had to lower his sights after the loss to McCall. That would leave Lewis with the miserable prospect of being frozen out for at least another year.

This underlines the risk Lewis is taking on Saturday despite the confidence expressed by his trainer, Emanuel Steward. "I've always had a soft spot for Tommy because he always comes to fight," Steward said. The soft spot Steward imagines for Morrison is on the canvas. "He won't last more than three rounds," Steward added, alluding to his man's power and Morrison's weakness in the part of a sport.

By implication that means Don King, who has control of titles put out by the WBC, the World Boxing Association and the International Boxing Federation and a big alliance with Mike Tyson. Current speculation is that Tyson will begin an attempt to unify the championship by challenging Frank Bruno for the WBC crown. That would leave Lewis with the miserable prospect of being frozen out for at least another year.

Lewis thinks this to be beneath his dignity. "I've never ducked anybody," he said. "I've always been prepared to fight anyone out there. That's what boxing should be about. Trouble is that politics plays too big a part in the sport."

As it stands, Lewis' record of 25 wins and 12 losses is not bad, but the 12 losses include a defeat by Morrison, a draw with Mike Tyson and a loss to Oliver McCall. Had they fought on schedule Morrison would have made \$8.2m (£5.3m). Lewis would have made \$8.2m (£5.3m).

The differential has been maintained but there is a reduction of \$6m (£3.9m) in the purses. "Probably did me a favour," Morrison could be

heard saying while waiting for Lewis to put in an appearance. Since he could always be relied upon for a party, Morrison added: "I don't know if I'll be alive today. I don't think I could have handled all that money."

Since McCall sensationalised took his title, Lewis has found himself looking in from the periphery of negotiations in the heavyweight division. From becoming the WBC's leading contender he now comes in behind Mike Tyson. Many believe he is taking a big risk against Morrison. Why? Lewis is in with a big puncher is more or less the word in boxing.

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Simona Anwar of Romania takes the vault during the compulsory exercises in the women's team event at the World Gymnastic Championships in Sabae, Japan. The US finished the day in first place, with the defending champions Romania second

Photograph: AFP

## Brown puts McStay back on the world stage

### Football

Paul McStay has a chance to re-launch his international career in Sweden next week. The Celtic midfielder has been recalled by the Scotland manager, Craig Brown, for the friendly in Stockholm on Wednesday.

McStay won the last of his 72 caps in March, when the Scots drew 0-0 in a European Championship qualifier in Russia. The Tannadice winger Pat Nevin and Peter Beardsley and David Ginola.

In their nine months together, Steward claims to have seen a considerable improvement in Lewis. "He's shown me things I haven't seen in any other heavyweight," he said. In Stewart's mind no heavyweight, including Tyson and Riddick Bowe, would last more than eight rounds against him. "I really believe that," he added.

Lewis refutes the notion that he looks anxious in two contests since losing to McCall, even against the limited if pugnacious Justin Fortune who was on Morrison's payroll as a sparring partner. "I can't win," Lewis said. "If I take my time as Maury wants, people say that I'm gun-shy. They are the same people who wanted me to blast out McCall."

Either way Lewis knows that if he doesn't get the job done on Saturday it's curtains.

the Bolton striker John McGinnay are also included in 18-man squad for the senior match

"Paul is as fresh as a daisy at present," Brown said. "He does not have anything to prove to me. He is very important to Scotland in terms of his final pass. We are overloaded with quality in midfield but what I do not know is our best striking partnership". Brown indicated he may choose a front pairing of Ally McCoist and Scott Booth of Aberdeen.

Brown will adopt a positive attacking policy against Sweden in a bid to put his side in good heart for the vital European Championship qualifier against Hearts is standing by.

Brown will adopt a positive attacking policy against Sweden in a bid to put his side in good heart for the vital European Championship qualifier against

Chelsea's John Spencer started ahead of McCoist against Finland last month, but has been ruled out through injury. Nevin was substituted by Tranmere last week because of a thigh strain and Brown said there is a question mark over his fitness. John Spencer of Hearts is standing by.

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Brown will adopt a positive attacking policy against Sweden in a bid to put his side in good heart for the vital European Championship qualifier against

San Marino at Hampden Park next month.

The senior squad holds no high hopes but the elevation of the goalkeeper Kevin McKeown to the B squad is a major surprise. He plays in Northern Ireland for Crusaders after being freed by Motherwell. McKeown is one of six new faces, with Gerry Creaney of Manchester City also called up.

The Manchester City defender, Terry Phelan, has been called up to the Republic of Ireland's squad for the vital Group Six European Championship qualifier against Latvia in Dublin on Wednesday. The 28-year-old full-back replaces Manchester United's Denis Irwin, who has been struggling with a knee injury.

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# SPORT



## Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Racing's dream team will go their separate ways following the announcement yesterday that Sheikh Mohammed, the globe's most powerful owner, is to remove the 40 horses he has with the 10-times champion trainer of Britain, Henry Cecil.

The relationship between the two men had deteriorated recently when Cecil, and his wife, Natalie, expressed dissatisfaction at Sheikh Mohammed's policy of moving on some of the best horses at Warren Place to his native Dubai.

It broke down yesterday when the Sheikh complained about the condition of a horse he had taken from Cecil, in the dark, so too must some of Cecil's staff. "The writing seemed to be on the wall, but we didn't think it would happen this quickly," Lennie Anderton, Cecil's travelling head lad, said.

"Sheikh Mohammed expressed extreme disappointment over this matter because his trainer did not inform him of all the facts relating to this colt," Anthony Stroud, the Sheikh's racing manager, said

yesterday. "What Sheikh Mohammed is stressing here is that if people are loyal to him, then he is loyal to them."

If Sheikh Mohammed felt his trainer of 14 years had kept him in the dark, so too must some of Cecil's staff. "The writing seemed to be on the wall, but we didn't think it would happen this quickly," Lennie Anderton, Cecil's travelling head lad, said.

"This is worrying for the lads in the yard as they are going to be wondering about their jobs. The injury to the horse is news

to us. There was no sign of any leg problem with the horse when he was in the yard."

This ends a liaison which provided Classic and Group One successes aplenty such as Indian Summer, Diminuendo, Old Vic, Belmez, King's Theatre and, perhaps the best of them all, the 1985 Fillies' Triple Crown winner, Oh So Sharp.

Those times seemed to be forgotten, however, when the Sheikh started taking horses from Warren Place, among others, to fuel his Godolphin operation, which winters horses in the Emirates before returning them to compete in Britain.

The Cecils did not like it, and Sheikh Mohammed did not like their reaction.

The trainer said yesterday:

"Obviously this is a knock, but I feel that under the circumstances this is probably for the best as his [Sheikh Mohammed's] first priority is Dubai and mine is my family, my staff, my other owners and, as ever, to win as many races as possible."

On the specific topic of Mark

of Esteem, Cecil would not be drawn. "He wants to act with some dignity," a spokesperson at his yard said last night. "He'll not comment further and you can read into that what you will."

There was plenty coming from Mark Of Esteem's owner, however. "Mark Of Esteem arrived safely in Dubai and on his arrival a complete physical examination was carried out and it was discovered that he had a knee condition which could require surgery," Stroud said.

"This injury occurred during or after his last race at Goodwood. Contrary to general opinion, it is unlikely that Mark Of Esteem would have been able to run in the Royal Lodge Stakes. However, Sheikh Mohammed was not informed until the day of the Royal Lodge when Henry Cecil admitted that Mark Of Esteem had a knee problem."

An injury to one horse, then, has led to another more damaging, the fracture between the most successful trainer and owner of modern times.

The future for Cecil, page 25

Henry Cecil: Losing horses

## Jordan leads York to the promised land

### Football

GUY HODGSON

York City  
Manchester United  
York win 4-3 on aggregate

It is just as well that Eric Cantona has returned for Manchester United, because little else is going right for them at the moment. A week after going out of the Uefa Cup they were dismissed from the Coca-Cola Cup last night when they could not quite undo the damage they had suffered in the first leg.

Second Division York

worked like fury to restrict their illustrious opponents to a victory that was not comprehensive enough. When United needed a torrent they could not find it, having to be content with two goals from Paul Scholes and another from Terry Cooke, in the end Scott Jordan's first-half effort proved more important.

York played striker, Paul Baker, in goal for 70 minutes against Hull on Saturday and still did not concede a goal so they had reason to believe they might cling on to the 3-0 lead they had accrued at Old Trafford, no matter which "big guns" United trained on them.

The 19-year-old York goalkeeper, who was making his first-team debut, had to wait another seven minutes for his next touch of the ball and again it was to pick it out of his oot. This time there was a quickfire string of passes between Scobes, Cole and Ryan Giggs down the left flank before Cooke appeared at the far post to side-foot the ball in.

All this pointed to United wiping out their first-leg handicap with some ease, but York struck back after 38 minutes to restore a two-goal advantage. Paul Barnes, twice a scorer in the first leg, swerved past Gary Pallister but, as he was about to shoot, Steve Bruce slid into block to no avail, and Jordan pushed the rebound past Peter Schmeichel.

This reverse made it more imperative for the visitors to attack and, after 53 minutes, Roy Keane was added to the United battalions, coming on to add bite and force to the midfield at the expense of the skilful but lightweight Cooke. He almost scored with his first touch too, crashing into a 50-50 tackle to send the ball narrowly wide.

York City (4-2-3-1): Walker; Miller, Barnes, Hall, Alder, Williams, Pepper, Jordan, Ricketts, Johnson, Goss. Substitutes not used: Hayford, Hurst, Family (90). Middlesbrough (4-3-2-1): Welsh; Cox (Luton), 70), Pearson, Vickers, Whyte, Whelan, Pilkington, Higginbotham, Farnell. Substitutes not used: Hardie, Moore. Referee: P Dawson (Middlesbrough).

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### Vickers makes sure

JON CULLEY

Rotherham United  
Middlesbrough  
Middlesbrough win 3-1 on agg

The Premiership newcomers, Middlesbrough, avoided stepping on a Coca-Cola Cup banana skin at Millmoor last night, where a second-half goal by their defender Steve Vickers confirmed their place in the third round at the expense of Second Division Rotherham, who had a man sent off after only 30 minutes.

Even with a disparity of 49 places in their relative league positions, the narrowness of the first-leg scoreline created the potential for an upset. The odds against one lengthened, however, when Rotherham's Neil Richardson, their central midfielder, was sent off for a second bookable offence, having committed two similar fouls on Jamie Pollock in the space of five minutes.

The loss did nothing to dampen Rotherham's eagerness and the speed of Sbastien Goater kept Middlesbrough's defence on alert, but by half time the visitors were threatening to go

for it. Vickers' header, from a corner from which a Jan Age Fjortoft header was stopped on the line by Goater, with the away supporters claiming handball. Clarke saved again from Nick Bamby's header on the stroke of half time.

But Clarke was beaten five minutes into the second period, Vickers providing the cushion of a two-goal aggregate lead, meeting Fjortoft's corner with a firm diagonal header.

Goater almost instantly raised Rotherham's hopes with a well-struck drive on the turn, but Gary Walsh pushed the rebound past Peter Schmeichel.

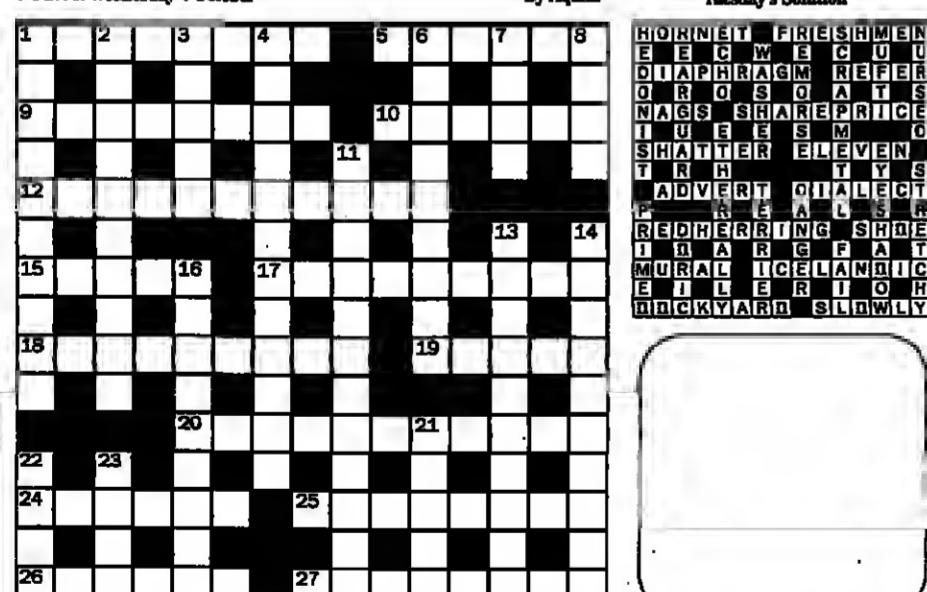
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### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2796. Wednesday 4 October By Aquila



- ACROSS**
- Clue to "copper" — a means of saving time? (5,3)
  - Overcome with horror, do not open Agatha's mystery? (6)
  - Standard penny-farthing (8)
  - Moll at Clydeside, say? (6)
  - With enough on the board to make a such a statement? (11)
  - A limitless stop at sea (5)
  - Abandoned issue-setting institution? (9)
  - MCC lay tea out using sugar substitute? (9)
  - End of the country antelope? (5)
  - Thoroughly modern girl, inwardly elated, finds a man with huge assets? (11)
  - Levy on off-shore vessel, abraded by time? (9)
  - A fleet on half of river? (4)
  - This Florentine painter got it right with a circle! (6)
  - Marvelling at marriage taken preseeted to maid, perhaps? (8)
  - Mantis, for example, belonging to religious group? (6)
  - Oppressive burden of boat-craft, having-first waded out? (10)
  - Matriculate, perhaps, without using the French, can be damaging? (9)
  - Rumour of one having been caught by snout? (5)
  - Fruit declared to be nothing like a peach? (4)
  - Expressions of contempt for alcoholic drink, say? (4)
  - This sandbank at mouth of Mersey is to be fruitful? (4)
  - Frank presented being so unsophisticated? (6)
  - Manta, for example, a size I is incorrect? (10)
  - Oppressive burden of boat-craft, having-first waded out? (10)
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  - Rumour of one having been caught by snout? (5)
  - Fruit declared to be nothing like a peach? (4)
  - Expressions of contempt for alcoholic drink, say? (4)
  - Light vehicle kept in Brighton garage? (5)
  - Uncalled-for lunar base, one to be dismantled? (12)
  - Leyoo on off-shore vessel, abraded by time? (9)
  - A fleet on half of river? (4)

## Speed delivers decisive strike

PHIL SHAW

Blackburn Rovers, floundering in both the Premiership and the European Cup, are set to revamp their midfield with two major signings — Lars Bohinen from Nottingham Forest and Billy McKinlay of Dundee United.

Bohinen, who will play for Norway against England in Oslo a week tonight, is expected to join Ray Harford's ailing champions today at a knock-down price of £700,000. McKinlay, a regular in the Scotland squad, may follow before the weekend if the Scottish First Division club accept Blackburn's offer of £1.5m.

In confirming that Bohinen was to discuss terms with Blackburn, the Forest manager, Frank Clark, admitted the 29-year-old

player had a clause in his contract which allowed him to leave for no more than £700,000.

Bohinen, who joined Forest two years ago for £400,000, would have fetched up to £2.5m in normal circumstances.

"We've taken legal advice and tried to buy out the clause, but it's there and really the mistake is down to me," Clark said.

Bohinen may prove to be the runner from midfield Blackburn have conspicuously lacked. He scored six goals in 34 Premiership games last season.

McKinlay, 26, is also a marksman of some standing, having scored three times in his first five appearances for Scotland and collected a hat-trick in Saturday's Dundee derby. Their arrival could set off a scramble for Tim Sherwood, the captain of Blackburn's title-winning side,

who is understood to interest Arsenal and Chelsea.

Almost certainly leaving Ewood Park is Lee Makel, who should complete a move to Crystal Palace tomorrow. With Blackburn seeking £600,000 for the out-of-contract midfielder, the fee is likely to be settled by an independent tribunal.

Peter Thorne, the 22-year-old striker whom Blackburn sold for £225,000 to Swindon 22 months ago, was yesterday the subject of a rejected £1m offer from Bolton.

Scott Makel, the Forest mid-fielder, is also a £2m target for the Premiership's recent arrivals.

Coventry City have had an offer of £600,000 rejected by Oldham Athletic for their central defender, Richard Jobson. The First Division club want £750,000 for Jobson.

Ipswich Town have persuad-

ed Celtic to accept £400,000 for the 31-year-old defender Tony Mowbray, who has still to discuss personal terms with the First Division club.

Chester and Everton were both united yesterday in dismissing reports that Mark Hughes was unsettled in London and wanted to return north.

Andy Townsend has been handed a double punishment by

United's record profits, page 7

McStay's return, page 28

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## FOOTBALL RESULTS

CoCA-COLA CUP	Second round second leg
Armenia (2) — 1 Hartlepool (0) — 0	Brighton 26, 27, 194
Wright 33, 55, 87	Armenia 8-0 on aggregate
Armenia 8-0 on aggregate	Brighton 0-4 Hartlepool (0) — 0
Reynolds 27, 74, 77	Reynolds 27, 74, 77
Reynolds 28	Brighton 0-4 on aggregate
Brighton 0-2 Bolton (0) — 3	Brighton 0-2 Bolton (0) — 3
Granger pen 63	McGinn 55, Thompson 61, 4, 82
Bolton 0-2 4-2 Hartlepool (0) — 0	Bolton 0-2 4-2 Hartlepool (0) — 0
Reynolds 28	Reynolds 28
Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3	Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3
Reynolds 28	Reynolds 28
Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3	Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3
Reynolds 28	Reynolds 28
Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3	Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3
Reynolds 28	Reynolds 28
Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3	Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton (0) — 3
Reynolds 28	Reynolds 28
Brighton 0-2 4-2 Bolton	